7

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

DOME×GIRL

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CHAPTER 56: A STEP FORWARD

DOME X GIRL

AH.
NO HAIR...
か
ト
ER-
BLUSH
あ
あ
あ
UH-
I'M SORRY! I MADE A MISTAKE!
THWAP
HOLD IT!

YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN THE WRONG PERSON,
BUT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT PLACE, Y'KNOW.
YOU'RE ...
...HINA'S BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?!
I WAS HOPING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU.
CLAK カッ
CLAK カッ
CLAK カッ

バタンッ
THUD
I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK.
MAKI!
DID NATSUO-KUN...
DID A HIGH-SCHOOL BOY COME BY?
HE DID.
OOF...
I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO TELL HIM YOU WERE HERE.
I BET THAT SURPRISED HIM...
パ
PTCH
ミャッ
HUH?

AAAAAH!
WHAT HAPPENED, NATSUO-KUN?!
WHY ARE YOU A PUDDLE?!
I WAS JUST GIVING HIM SOME LIFE COACHING.
IT'S TRUE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T NORMAL,
AND I KNOW YOU PROBABLY HAVE A LOT TO SAY...
SPSH バシャ
SPSH バシャ
...BUT DON'T BEAT HIM DOWN TOO MUCH, OKAY?
SORRY, NATSUO-KUN. THE PLACE MAKI HAD LINED UP TO RENT WAS SUDDENLY GIVEN TO SOMEONE ELSE...
...SO SHE'S STAYING WITH ME UNTIL SHE FINDS SOMEWHERE TO LIVE.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO PICK APART YOUR GUYS' RELATIONSHIP OR ANYTHING.
NATSUO-KUN SEEMED LIKE A TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH GUY, ANYWAY.
HE CAME WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO HOP IN THE SHOWER, SO I TESTED HIM BY ANSWERING THE DOOR IN NOTHING BUT A TOWEL AND HIS FACE TURNED RED AS A CHERRY.
I WOULD'VE DECKED HIM IF HE TRIED TO ATTACK ME, THOUGH.
MAKI ...!
IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT HIS PLANS WERE FOR THE FUTURE...
...HE SAID HE WANTED TO BECOME A NOVELIST AND MARRY YOU, SO I LECTURED HIM A BIT.
WELL, HE MIGHT NOT SEEM VERY DEPENDABLE TO A FOREIGN CAPITAL CONSULTANT LIKE YOU...
...BUT ISN'T IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE DREAMS?
ALSO ...
...TO GO WITH HIS VOW ...
...HE BOUGHT THIS RING FOR ME DURING THE SCHOOL TRIP.

THAT MANLY SIDE OF HIM...
...MADE ME THINK THAT WE COULD MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.
HINA ...
HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A JOB, RIGHT?
I MEAN,
SURE, HE CAN BUY A RING WITH HIS PARENTS' ALLOWANCE, BUUUT...
ぷん
PLUNK
と
ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.
I'M NOT SAYING YOU CAN'T BE A NOVELIST OR YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED,
I'M SAYING YOUR VISION FOR MAKING THAT COME TRUE IS TOO NAÏVE!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD IT IS TO MAKE A LIVING AS A WRITER THESE DAYS?
AWARD
NOVELISTS STAND OUT BY WINNING WELL-KNOWN AWARDS IN THEIR TEENS.
WITHOUT THAT SORT OF NOTORIETY, NEW WRITERS ARE LUCKY IF THEY SELL ANY BOOKS AT ALL.
FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, YOU'VE ONLY WRITTEN TWO PIECES OF WORK SO FAR,
AND IT WAS YOUR CLUB'S IDEA TO SUBMIT ONE FOR AN AWARD, NOT YOUR OWN.
YOUR DREAMS MIGHT AS WELL BE UNATTAINABLE IF YOUR ATTITUDE IS JUST, "IT WOULD BE NICE IF I BECAME A NOVELIST."
...
DID THAT STING?
YOU'LL BE IN FOR A WORLD OF PAIN IF YOU MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT A GRASP ON REALITY.
WELL,
I MIGHT SOUND LIKE I'M BEING A HARD-ASS...
...BUT I AM CHEERING YOU GUYS ON.

IF YOU'RE THE GUY HINA'S HEART HAS CHOSEN...
...THEN I HOPE YOU TWO WILL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
WHILE MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING,
NOT HAVING IT WILL BANKRUPT YOU EMOTIONALLY, TOO.
YOU'RE MY PRECIOUS FRIEND, HINA.
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY FOR YEARS TO COME.
MAKI...
AND QUIT HOLDING HANDS LIKE A COUPLE OF LOVE BIRDS WHILE I'M TRYING TO BE SERIOUS HERE!
FWIP
S-SORRY...

WOW!
THE FIREWORKS LOOK GREAT, HUH?
HIGH-SPEC CAMERAS REALLY MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.
I'LL SEND YOU THEM OVER LINE IF YOU WANT.
WE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU DURING THE SHOW, BUT WE COULDN'T FIND YOU, NATSUO-KUN.
WHERE WERE YOU?

OH ...
I WAS WANDERING AROUND, TOO, SO WE PROBABLY JUST MISSED EACH OTHER.
AWW. THAT'S TOO BAD.
...
BY THE WAY.
YOU'VE BEEN KINDA OUT OF IT TODAY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
IS THERE ...
...ANYTHING YOU WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE, MOMO?
WHAT I WANT TO BE? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
YOU MEAN LIKE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
YEAH.
HMM. THEY KEEP TELLING ME I SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE, BUT...
カラララ
RATTL

HEY, THERE.
I SEE EVERYONE'S HERE. GREAT.
THE RESULTS FOR THE AWARD ARE BACK.
HUH ?!
YOU MEAN THE ONE WE SUBMITTED OUR CLUB PIECES FOR?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE LATER.
SO, WHAT WERE THE RESULTS, MR. KIRIYA?
IT TURNS OUT...
WE HAVE A WINNER FROM OUR HUMBLE CLUB.
WHAT ?!
WHO IS IT?
FOR A SCHOOL CLUB, RECEIVING AN HONORABLE MENTION IS A FINE ACHIEVEMENT.
THE WINNER THIS TIME...

...RUI TACHIBANA-KUN.
THAT'S GREAT! CONGRATS, RUI-RUI!
Fantastic!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Congratulations, Rui!
HUH ?!
RUI-RUI ?!

WASN'T THIS YOUR FIRST TIME WRITING A STORY?
YEAH.
WRITING SOMETHING THAT GOOD FOR YOUR FIRST PIECE IS AMAZING!
I KNOW! LET'S THROW A PARTY!
TO CELEBRATE RUI-CHAN WINNING!
GOOD IDEA!
WELL ?!
YEAH... IT'S SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING.
LET'S GO NUTS.
Yeeeah!

TAINE
ASERANS
小和証券
EADER'S CHOICE

VWEEEE
ウィーン
FUJII-KUN?
ASHIHARA-SAN...
WE NEVER RUN INTO EACH OTHER ON THE WAY HOME, HUH?
DID YOU BUY SOME BOOKS?
YEAH.
THREE I'D HAD MY EYE ON.
I SEE...
FUJII-KUN.

WOULD YOU...
...LIKE TO GET SOME COFFEE?
安豚亭
eu
NOBA
CFC
NOBA
HE, HE.
IT'S SO CREAMY AND DELICIOUS.

YOU KNOW ...
...I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY DEPRESSED.
HUH ?
YOU ARE, TOO, RIGHT, FUJII-KUN?
HEY ...
DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE...
...THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE TALENT AND OTHERS DON'T?
...
YEAH.
I GUESS SO.
...
THE TRUTH IS,
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE GONE THROUGH THIS.

IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL,
I ENTERED A PICTURE BOOK CONTEST I SAW A POSTER FOR AT A BOOKSTORE.
PICTURE BOOK CONTEST
I WOUND UP GETTING AN THE LOWEST HONORABLE MENTION AND THOUGHT, "YES!",
BUT FIRST PRIZE ENDED UP GOING TO SOMEONE TWO YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL.
1st Prize
3rd Prize
2nd Prize
I WAS CRUSHED ...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE WORD "TALENT" CAME TO MIND.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
AND THIS IS WHAT I CAME UP WITH.
IF I DON'T HAVE TALENT, THEN INSTEAD...
...I PROBABLY HAVE FEELINGS PEOPLE WITH TALENT CAN'T COMPREHEND.
SO I FEEL LIKE THIS MELANCHOLY WILL COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY.
THERE WILL PROBABLY BE PLENTY MORE OCCASIONS LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE, TOO.

IF WE TAKE EVERYTHING WE CAN FROM THIS FEELING OF HOPELESSNESS...
...WE CAN SWITCH GEARS AND TRY HARD AGAIN!
YEAH ...!
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY FOR YEARS TO COME.
YOUR DREAMS MIGHT AS WELL BE UNATTAINABLE IF THAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE.

ピンポーン
DING DONG
YES?
...
FUJII-KUN?
カチャ
CLACK
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE THIS LATE?
SENSEI ...
PLEASE MAKE ME...
...YOUR PUPIL!

CHAPTER 57:
NOVELIST

I'M COVERED ALREADY.
カッ
THNK
ッ
I'M NOT A SALESMAN, SENSEI!
PLEASE LET GO. I DON'T DO THAT SORT OF THING.
ぐ
GRR
ぎ
ぎ
GIG
ぎ
GIG
GIG
ぎ

AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT, SENSEI!
YOU HASUKAWA-SENSEI!
DON'T CALL ME BY MY PENNAME!
SHRR
ゴポポ…
SO...
...CARE TO TELL ME WHY...
...YOU SHOWED UP AT MY DOOR ASKING TO BE MY APPRENTICE?

AREN'T I ALREADY YOUR CLUB ADVISOR?
YEAH, BUT...
YOU KNOW HOW YOU ANNOUNCED THE CONTEST RESULTS TODAY?
OH, THANKS
WELL ...
TO BE HONEST, I TOOK IT KINDA HARD.
I REALLY ...
WANT TO BECOME AN AUTHOR, NO MATTER WHAT!
I WANT TO MAKE A LIVING OFF OF WRITING!
WELL, I FIGURED THAT WAS PROBABLY YOUR DREAM, BUT...
I FELT LIKE I HAD MY OWN LACK OF TALENT SHOVED IN MY FACE.
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP.
SO I WAS HOPING YOU'D LET ME STUDY UNDER YOU...

I WANT ...
SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I SEE.
TACHIBANA-KUN'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT WRITING WON AN AWARD, WHICH MADE YOU FEEL A DIFFERENCE IN TALENT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU,
AND NOW YOU'RE GETTING ANXIOUS.
YOU KNOW,
TACHIBANA-KUN TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO DECLINE THE AWARD.

DE-CLINE IT?
HUH?
WHY?
SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME A REASON.
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL ANXIOUS.
TNK コト
BUT IF WHAT YOU MEAN BY "TALENT,"
REFERS TO "POTENTIAL TO BECOME A WRITER,"
THEN QUITE HONESTLY ...
...I THINK YOU HAVE MORE "TALENT."
...
THE REASON IS SIMPLE.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO BECOME A WRITER.

YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE INSIGHT, EXPRESSIVENESS, AND APTITUDE IN THE WORLD,
BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING UNLESS YOU HAVE THE RESOLVE TO PERSEVERE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, EVEN IF YOU'VE AVERAGE IN EVERY REGARD,
AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE TO PUT IN THE EFFORT, YOUR CHANCE WILL COME.
...
TAKING THAT INTO ACCOUNT,
REGARDING YOUR REQUEST TO BE MY PUPIL...
...IT'S NOT EVEN WORTH A RESPONSE.

...
YOU WANT TO BE A NOVELIST? PLEASE...
HOW MANY STORIES HAVE YOU WRITTEN UNTIL NOW?
YOU SHOULD ONLY RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE AFTER YOU'VE EXHAUSTED ALL YOUR OWN EFFORTS.
SUPPOSE YOU BECOME MY APPRENTICE.
IT MAY GIVE YOU SOME INSIGHT INTO THE INDUSTRY...
...BUT IT WON'T BE A SHORTCUT TO BECOMING A WRITER.
BESIDES...
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT,
YOU'LL ONLY GET THERE THROUGH STRUGGLE AND HARD WORK,
FUJII-KUN.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE NOVELS?
OR ...
DO YOU JUST WANT THE STATUS OF A NOVELIST?

ガチャ
CLACK
I'M HOME.
HEY. SOMEONE SURE IS HOME LATE. YOU DIDN'T EVEN CALL.
SORRY. I WAS AT MY CLUB ADVISOR'S PLACE...
I SEE.
JUST TRY NOT TO IMPOSE TOO MUCH, OKAY?
HAVE YOU HAD DINNER?
OH...
NOT YET.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO PUT SOME MUSTARD SOY SAUCE ON THAT.
NAH, IT'S GOOD AS IS.
OKAY.
OH, YEAH.
I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOU PROPERLY.
CONGRATS ON GETTING THE HONORABLE MENTION.
I'M NOT ...
...VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT.

DON'T SAY THAT.
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOUR WORK IS RECOGNIZED.
THANKS FOR DINNER.
SSSHHH ジャー…
CLAT カチャ
CLINK カチャ

SINCERITY DANGLING DOWN ITS NECK,
NOBILITY WRAPPED AROUND ITS WRISTS.
RICHES GIVEN TO THE BEAST...
IN EXCHANGE FOR EVOLVING.
IT HAS NO WINGS.
NO FANGS.
NO HORNS.
NO LEGS TO RUN ON.
NOTHING.
NOTHING.
I WAS MORTIFIED.

KIRIYA-SENSEI'S WORDS HIT THE MARK DEAD-ON.
IT FELT LIKE...
...ALL MY SHAMEFULNESS AND VANITY...
...WAS BEING EXPOSED.
YOU KNOW,
TACHIBANA-KUN TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO DECLINE THE AWARD.
RUI PROBABLY ONLY SAID THAT...
...BECAUSE I WAS OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED.
I'M NOT ...
...VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
...
HOW LAME.

カチャ…
CLACK
I'M SO LAME...
...
RSTL もぞ…

...RUI?
YEAH.
WHAT'S UP?
...
I THOUGHT ...
...YOU MIGHT BE CRYING.

DUMMY.
LIKE I'D CRY ...

CHAPTER 58: IGNITION

MORNING ALREADY ...
...
I FEEL ...
A LITTLE BETTER THAN LAST NIGHT.

ACK ...!
OH, RIGHT. I DRIFTED OFF LIKE THIS!
IT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA FOR US TO SLEEP TOGETHER!
I SHOULD'VE DRAGGED HER BACK TO HER ROOM IF I HAD TO...
...
I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN, Y'KNOW!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HATE YOU WHEN YOU GO AND DO STUFF LIKE THAT?!
THE FACT THAT SHE CAME HERE IN SPITE OF HER DETERMINATION...
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH...
...WHETHER SHE LIKES OR HATES ME.
МИШКА
ENGINEERED TO DESTROY
MORTEM

RUI WAS JUST...
...BEING GENUINELY CARING.
MORN-IN'.
...
ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
МИШКА
OH.
A LITTLE BETTER...
THAN YESTERDAY, ANYWAY.

GOOD.
POMF
WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL...
...HINA-NEE USED TO DO THIS FOR ME A LOT.
LIKE ON DAYS WHEN I'D MADE FRIENDS ANGRY AND WAS DEPRESSED,
SHE'D SNEAK INTO MY BED...
AND WE'D SLEEP TOGETHER.
IT'S CRAMPED, HINA-NEE...
IT'S FIIINE.
...
HEY, RUI?
IT'S OKAY TO BE DEPRESSED SOMETIMES.
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS ANNOYING, BUT...
PARDON ME, MA'AM.
WHA?!

IF YOU RUSH TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET,
YOU'LL JUST MAKE IT HARDER FOR YOURSELF.
LETTING YOURSELF STAY DOWN UNTIL YOU GET OVER IT NATURALLY...
WILL GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN MIND,
YOU CAN END UP SINKING DEEPER THAN YOU NEED TO.
JUST HAVING SOMEONE AROUND LIKE THIS...
ACTS AS A SORT OF LIFELINE, Y'KNOW?
IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING DEPRESSED IN MODERATION.
SOUNDS HARD...
SO...
I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO BE YOUR LIFELINE.
THOUGH YOU'D PROBABLY PREFER HINA-NEE...

くしゃ
RUFF
HEY!
くしゃっ
RUFF
DON'T BE SILLY.
シャッ
SKSH
I PICKED MYSELF UP THANKS TO YOU.
HEY.
I HEARD YOU TOLD KIRIYA-SENSEI YOU WANTED TO DECLINE THE AWARD,
BUT YOU SHOULD ACCEPT IT.
I THINK IF YOU DO...
...I'LL BE MORE MOTIVATED, TOO.

'KAY ...
The Secrets and Statutes of Production
THE LAWS OF SCRIPTWRITING

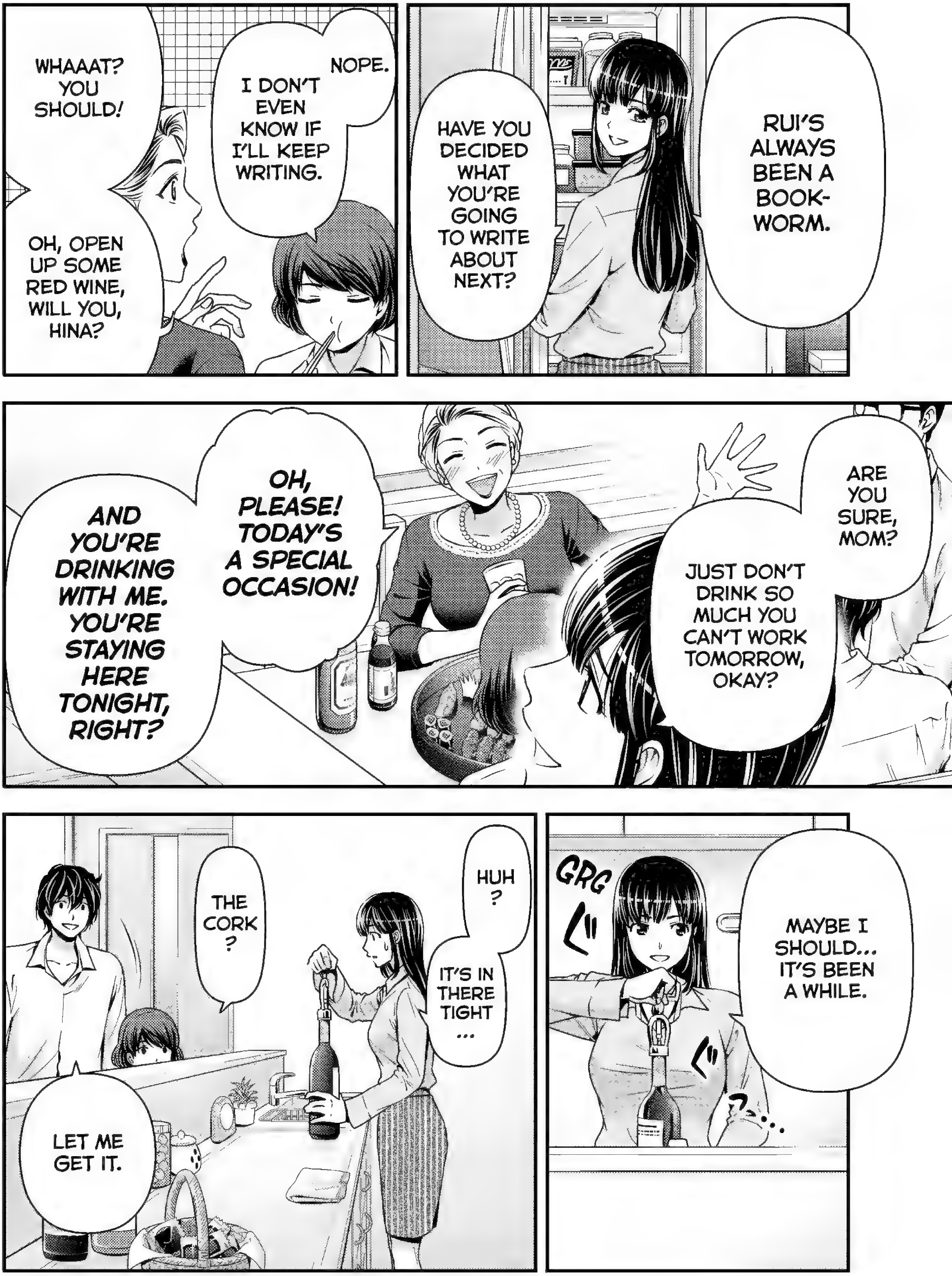
THESE BOOKS SHOULD HELP YOU WITH COMPOSITION AND SCRIPT-WRITING.
STRUGGLE WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
EVERYTHING STARTS FROM THERE.
HUH? WHERE'D NATSUO GO?
BEATS ME.
HE RAN OFF SOMEWHERE WITH A FOLDER.
HUH …
CANISUS NEW YORK '11 STREETS

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
SINCE HE'S DISAPPEARED DURING LUNCH.
SENSEI.

I TRIED WRITING A SHORT STORY...
...IN A GENRE I HAVEN'T TOUCHED BEFORE.
FLAP
FROM NOW ON,
I'M GOING TO WRITE ONE SHORT STORY PER WEEK.
I'LL MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF MY STUDIES,
SO ...
...WOULD YOU PLEASE ...
...LOOK AT THEM AS THE CLUB ADVISOR?
HMPH

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M RATHER STRICT.
WITH MY CORRECTIONS, THAT IS.
Kodensha Literary Award Ceremony
Kodensha Literary Award Ceremony

WHAT A SURPRISE.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD THIS KIND OF TALENT, RUI.
I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU.
TOO BAD, NATSUO.
THERE WILL BE OTHER AWARDS, RIGHT?
YEAH!
I WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME!


RUI'S ALWAYS BEEN A BOOKWORM.
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE ABOUT NEXT?
NOPE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'LL KEEP WRITING.
WHAAAT? YOU SHOULD!
OH, OPEN UP SOME RED WINE, WILL YOU, HINA?
ARE YOU SURE, MOM?
JUST DON'T DRINK SO MUCH YOU CAN'T WORK TOMORROW, OKAY?
OH, PLEASE! TODAY'S A SPECIAL OCCASION!
AND YOU'RE DRINKING WITH ME. YOU'RE STAYING HERE TONIGHT, RIGHT?
GRG
MAYBE I SHOULD... IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HUH?
IT'S IN THERE TIGHT...
THE CORK?
LET ME GET IT.

CAREFUL NOT TO HURT YOUR WRIST, OKAY?
YUP.
HNGH!
つ
ぐぐ
GRRG
ぐぐぐぐぐぐぐ
GRR GRR GRR GRR GRR GRR
ぎゅ
SHOOP
ぽっ!
GOT IT!
IS YOUR HAND OKAY? IT'S ALL RED!
NO BIGGIE.
FU, FU. IT BRINGS A SMILE TO MY FACE.
I'M RELIEVED THAT YOU KIDS GET ALONG SO WELL AS SIBLINGS.

Y- YEAH?
I WASN'T SURE IF THINGS WOULD WORK OUT IN THE BEGINNING.
カチャ CLAK
DID YOU THINK WE'D FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
HINA, LOOK OUT!
CATCH
OOP!
SAFE!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
WHO LEFT THESE THERE?
OH.
I DID, SORRY.

AHH. ♥
NOTHING BEATS A DRINK ON A SPECIAL OCCASION.
NO KIDDING.
I COULD KEEP THROWING 'EM BACK.
TIME SURE FLIES.
MY GIRL'S ALREADY 24.
SAY...
IS THERE ANYONE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE?

S-
SPECIAL ?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
...
WELL ...
THERE IS SOMEONE I LIKE...
HMM ...
BY ANY CHANCE,
YOU DON'T MEAN NATSUO-KUN, DO YOU?

CHAPTER 59: DETECTED

O-OH, PLEASE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOM?
NATSUO-KUN'S MY STEP-BROTHER!
AND HE'S SIX YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME!
THERE'S JUST...
...NO WAY.
OH?
HUH ...?

YOU TWO SEEMED RATHER *INTIMATE* TO ME.
WH-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?! OF COURSE WE'RE CLOSE. WE'RE FAMILY!
DON'T DESCRIBE IT LIKE THAT!
I SEE.
WELL THAT'S GOOD.
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED.
YOU KIDS ARE AT THAT AGE, AFTER ALL.
...
SO, RATHER THAN US BEING AGAINST THE MARRIAGE,
YOU WERE MORE WORRIED ABOUT *THAT?*
I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WOULDN'T GET ALONG, TOO, OF COURSE.
BUT I WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT A *MISTAKE* MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FAMILY AS YOU LIVED TOGETHER.

...
A MISTAKE...
IF I'M WRONG, THEN NEVER MIND.
SORRY FOR ASKING SOMETHING SO SILLY.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD HAPPEN. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN HONEST GIRL.
I TRUST YOU,
HINA.

WHAT DO WE HAVE NEXT PERIOD AGAIN?
MUSIC.
GUH, LAME.
BADING
from
subject
VWEEEE
ウィーン

Hina-sensei
No Subject

Can you come over today? I want to see you.

An Introduction to Novels
~How to Get Your Message Across~
Takayuki Mizono
A beginner's guide to writing stories.
アレン・フィー 著
水川千里 訳
ラノベから長編
「初歩」から「奥
YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THE AWARD.
WHAAAT? YOU SHOULD KEEP WRITING!
...
HMM.

26th Kodensha Literary Award
General Division
Winner
Shingo Harada "The Amusement Park of Clouds"
Honorable Mention
Seiji Sou "Collar Village"
Student Division
Winner
Yukiyasu Ando "Vengeful Heroes"
Honorable Mention
Rui Tachibana "Bond of Bones"
Yuko Ogiwar "Debaucher
STARE
HYAH!
!
!
I KNEW IT!
YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
DASH
WAIT.
SNATCH
DO YOU...
...HAVE SOME TIME?

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT
BAR
FRESHNESS DONUT
OH, MY. IS SHE A NEW FRIEND OF YOURS, RUI-RUI?
NO.
SHE'S THE GIRL WHO WAS STALKING KIRIYA-SENSEI AND CAUSED ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE DURING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
AAH, STALKIKO-SAN.
DON'T GIVE ME A WEIRD NICKNAME!
UMM. ERI KUSUDA, WAS IT?
SAKI KUSUMOTO!
SO? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AN APOLOGY FOR WHAT I DID AT THE FESTIVAL?
NO.
I ACTUALLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT UNTIL I SAW YOU TODAY, SO IT'S FINE.
THAT BOTHERS ME IN A DIFFERENT WAY...
MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU MANAGED...
...TO HATE THE PERSON YOU USED TO LOVE.
WHAT?
AT FIRST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...
WHY YOU'D EVEN HATE THEM.
BUT WHEN I REALIZED MY FEELINGS WOULDN'T BE RETURNED, TOO,
I STARTED TO GET IT.
SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT I HATE HIM,
BUT IT'S NOT GOING SO WELL...
HUH?
DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON KIRIYA-SENSEI, TOO?
NO.
I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.

IS THERE A TRICK TO CHANGING HOW YOU FEEL?
...
HONESTLY,
I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I GENUINELY HATED HIM.
AFTER HE TURNED ME DOWN, I WAS SO FULL OF ANGER AND SADNESS BECAUSE I THOUGHT HE'D ABANDONED ME.
...
THE THOUGHT OF HIM MOVING ON AND FORGETTING ME ENTIRELY MADE ME SO RESENTFUL.
I COULDN'T FORGIVE HIM.
BUT ...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
...NEVER ONCE HAVE I FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.

THE MOMENT I HEARD THAT...
...I COULDN'T CARE ANY LESS...
ABOUT MY RESENTMENT ANYMORE.
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT,
I PROBABLY JUST WANTED TO HAVE A PLACE IN SENSEI'S HEART.
THEN YOU NEVER ACTUALLY HATED SENSEI, SACHI-SAN?
SAKI!
SUKI ?
SAKI!
ARE YOU STILL IN LOVE WITH KIRIYA-SENSEI, THEN?
...
WELL ...
...YOU COULD SAY THAT.

HUH? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STALKING HIM AGAIN...
NO!
FOR THE RECORD,
I DO REGRET...
...WHAT I DID, Y'KNOW.
MY "LOVE" GOT CORRUPTED AND PUSHED ME TO DO SOMETHING AWFUL.
I COULD'VE DONE THINGS SO DIFFERENTLY.
EVEN MY CONFESSION WHICH STARTED THE WHOLE THING...
I BASICALLY FORCED MY FEELINGS ON HIM BECAUSE MY UNREQUITED LOVE WAS TOO PAINFUL AND I WANTED TO SETTLE THINGS...
...BUT I SHOULD'VE CHERISHED THE TIME WE HAD TOGETHER MORE.
RATHER THAN PRESS HIM WITH WORDS,
I SHOULD'VE SHOWN MY LOVE THROUGH ACTIONS.

IF I'D DONE THAT,
THEN THINGS MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED OUT SO WRONG.
ピン DONG
ポーン DING
カシャンッ CHAKA
ガチャ CLACK
HINA!
I WAS HAPPY WHEN I GOT YOUR TEX-

FWAP
H-HINA?!
THAT CAME OUTTA NOWHERE...
ERR.
I'M HAPPY,
BUT IT'D BE BAD IF SOMEONE SEES US.
LET'S GO IN ...
バタン
THUD
PHEW.
HINA...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

NOPE! NOTHING AT ALL!
HO BEAM
I JUST WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU A LITTLE.
MAKI'S OUT ON A BUSINESS TRIP TONIGHT,
SO I THOUGHT I'D BE AS LOVEY-DOVEY AS I WANT.
VOILA.
I MADE *ODEN* TONIGHT.
WOW.
IT LOOKS GREAT!
HE, HE.
I TRIED USING THE PRESSURE COOKER. ♪

I'M GONNA DIG IN.
はむ NOM
くっ
CAN...I HAVE SOME WATER?
タッ DASH
SURE!
IS IT BAD?
ANOTHER FAILURE?
HOW CAN I PUT THIS? IT'S PRETTY...
I MEAN, IT'S A LITTLE SALTY, BUT...IT'S OKAY!
YOU START TO LOSE TRACK OF THE FLAVOR THE MORE YOU TASTE TEST...
NOM ぱ
くっ
GLOOM...
I'M SO SORRY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT THAT.
IT'S COOL! I BET IT GOES GOOD WITH RICE!
YEAH.
THIS TAMAGOYAKI IS PRETTY MILD, SO IT'S JUST RIGHT.

HUG
WHAT'S UP, HINA?
THE *ODEN'S* GOOD.
NATSUO-KUN...
CAN I...
...KISS YOU?
HUH?
S-SURE.
OF COURSE.

I REALLY ...
...FELT LIKE KISSING YOU TODAY.

と
FUMP
す
の…
HEY...
WHY DON'T WE...
...GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, JUST THE TWO OF US?

...
OKAY.
I'M UP FOR IT.

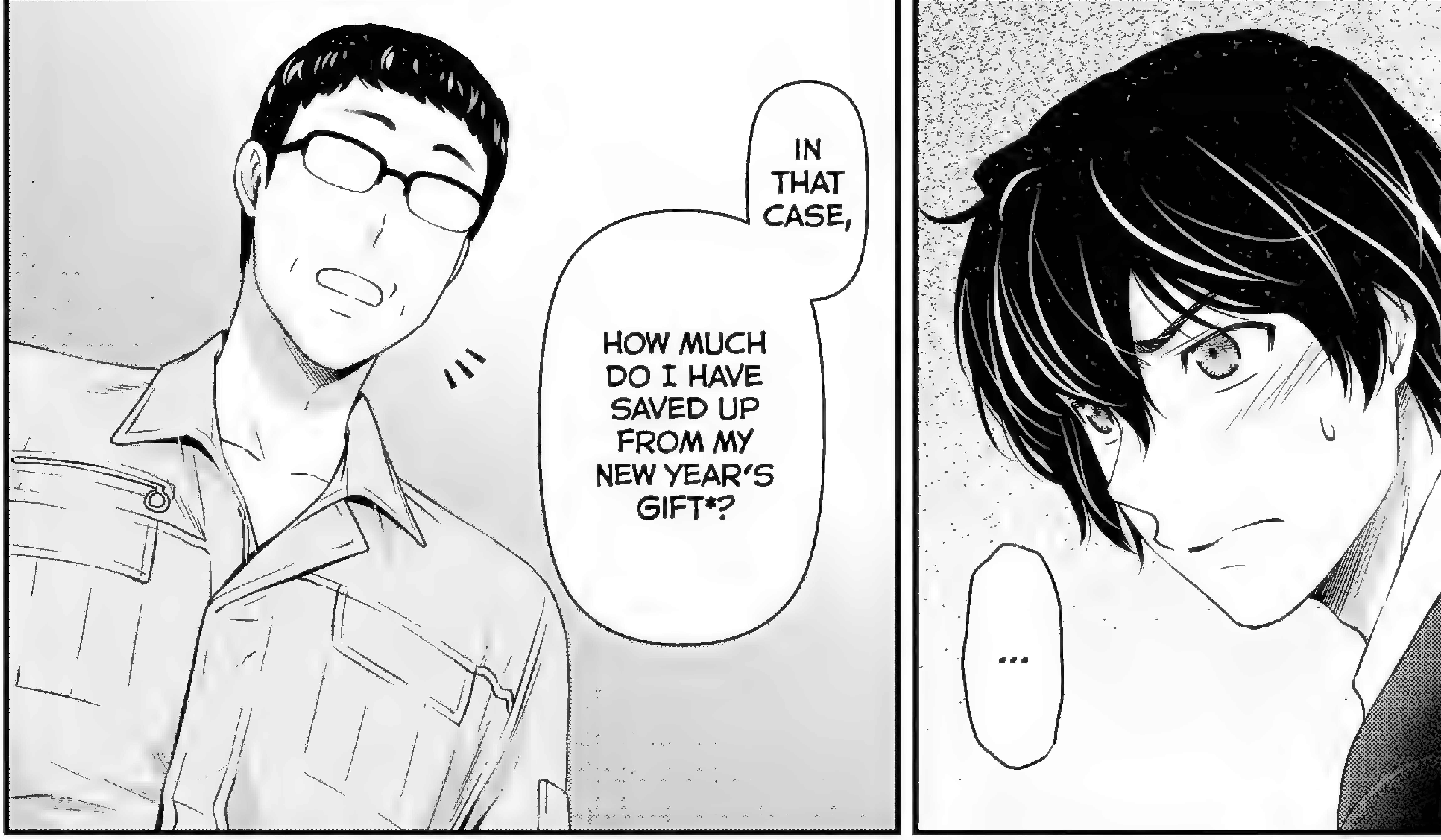
CHAPTER 59: ELOPING

WHERE ...
...SHOULD WE GO?
PUSH
HE, HE.
JUST KIDDING.
I'M KIND OF TIRED SINCE THINGS HAVE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY,
SO I JUST WANTED TO BE SPOILED A BIT!
DID I SURPRISE YOU?
THAT'S ALL?
C'MON!
BUT ...

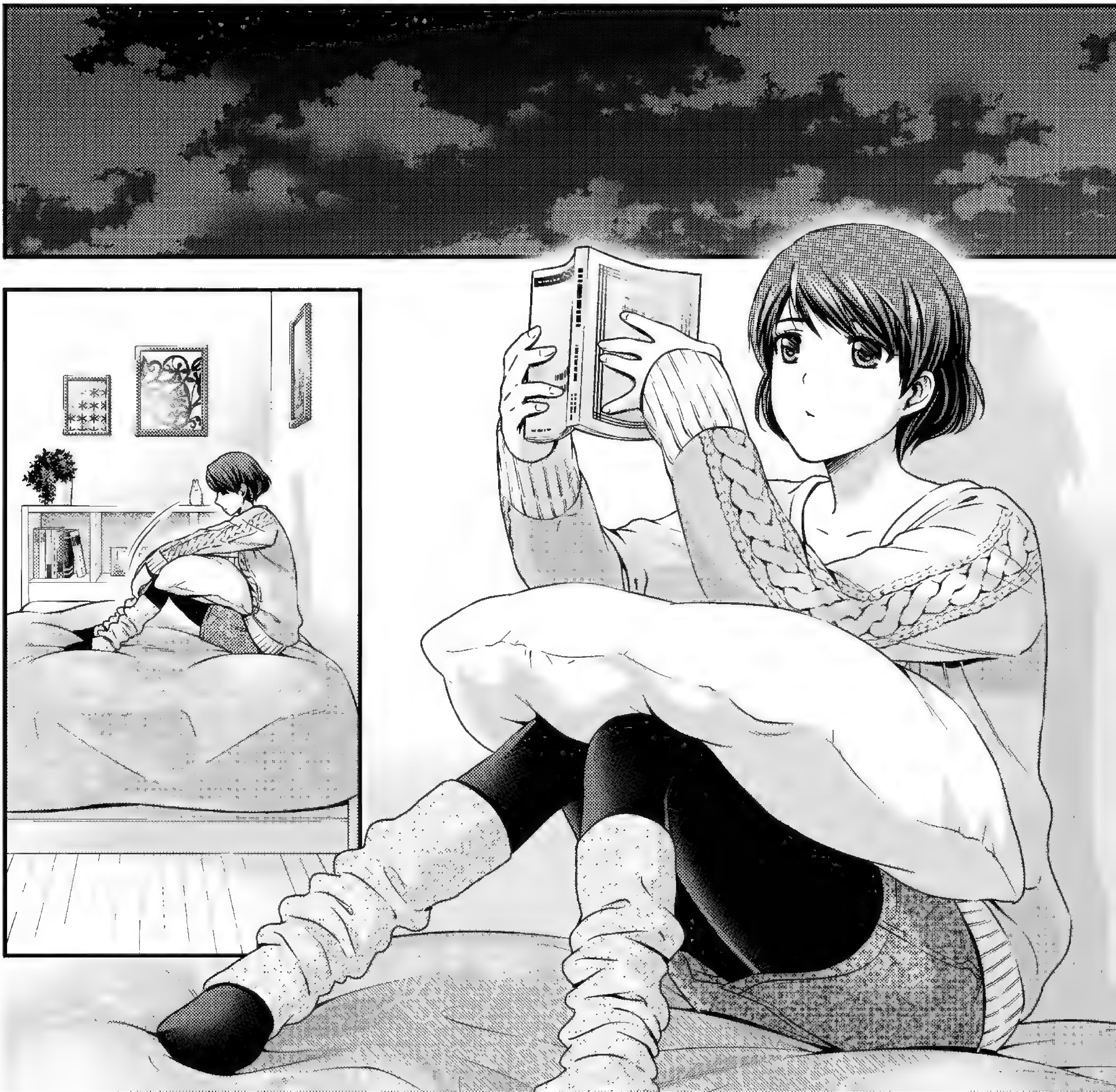
YOU SAYING "OKAY"...
...CHEERED ME UP ENOUGH ALREADY.
GIVE ME A FEW. I'LL ADD MORE WATER AND TRY SIMMERING THE ODEN SOME MORE.

I'M HOME.
チャ CLACK
HEY, DAD.
YOU'RE HOME EARLY TODAY.
T-MANWORK
TODAY WAS A NO-OVERTIME-DAY FOR A CHANGE.
YOU'RE PRETTY EARLY YOURSELF.
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
HM? JOB LISTINGS?
WORK
YEAH. I'M THINKING OF GETTING A PART-TIME JOB.

HUUUUH?!
A JOOOOB?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS NEXT YEAR!
WHAT IF YOUR JOB TAKES UP ALL YOUR TIME AND YOUR GRADES DROP?!
HOLD UP... LAST YEAR YOU SAID, "THE FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL IS CRUCIAL. WHAT IF YOU CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOUR STUDIES?", AND STOPPED ME FROM GETTING A JOB THEN, TOO!
A SHORT-TERM GIG SHOULDN'T BE A BIG DEAL!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! IF YOU GET A TASTE OF WORKING PART-TIME, YOU'RE GUARANTEED TO WANT TO KEEP DOING IT!
AND DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO FOCUS ON YOUR WRITING?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT?!
I'LL DO THAT, TOO!
YEAH, RIGHT. YOU'LL WORK YOURSELF SICK!
I GIVE YOU ENOUGH ALLOWANCE EVERY MONTH ALREADY. I'M AGAINST IT!
HOW OVERPROTECTIVE CAN YOU GET?!
IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL YOU WANT?


...
IN THAT CASE,
HOW MUCH DO I HAVE SAVED UP FROM MY NEW YEAR'S GIFT*?

*OTOSHIDAMA IN JAPANESE. MONEY GIVEN TO CHILDREN AND RELATIVES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.



I SHOULD'VE CHERISHED THE TIME WE HAD TOGETHER.
IF I'D DONE THAT, THEN THINGS MIGHT NOT HAVE TURNED OUT SO WRONG.
ん——…
HMM
う゛——~
MRRR
FWIP
TCHK

YOU SCARED ME...
WHAT'S UP?
ARE YOU WRITING A NEW NOVEL?
HUH?
OH, YEAH ...
HMM. WHAT'S YOUR THIRD ONE ABOUT?
AAH. IT'S NOT REALLY MY THIRD...
I'VE BEEN WRITING A SHORT STORY PER WEEK FOR KIRIYA-SENSEI TO EVALUATE.
Secrets and Statutes of Production
Dr. Script's Scriptwriting
SO, THAT MAKES THIS MY SIXTH, I GUESS.
HUH... THAT'S COOL.
LET ME READ THEM.
ERR.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ERR?"
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WRITING ANOTHER ONE IN FIRST PERSON WITH HINA-NEE AS THE HEROINE.
NO WAY!

UUUGH. THIS IS ODDLY NERVERACKING.
FLAP

...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SCI-FI.
!
OH.
WELL, Y'KNOW...
I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY WRITING SCI-FI...
HMM.
IN SPITE OF THAT, ISN'T THE PORTRAYAL OF THE WORLD A LITTLE WEAK?
I CAN'T REALLY GET A PICTURE OF THE SETTING FROM THE TEXT.
WHAT'S MORE, THE SIDE CHARACTERS STAND OUT MORE THAN THE PROTAGONIST.
THE PROTAGONIST'S FRIEND IS MORE LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER.
ALSO, DID YOU MAKE THE BEGINNING PAINFULLY BORING ON PURPOSE?
W-WELL... SENSEI ALREADY GAVE ME SIMILAR FEEDBACK...
WEAK PORTRAYAL OF THE WORLD.
PROTAGONIST DOESN'T FIT.
PAINFULLY BORING BEGINNING.
THAT SAID,
IT WAS MORE INTERESTING...
...THAN YOUR LAST WORK.

HM.
HUH ?
FOURTH ONE, PLEASE.
SHE ACTS LIKE IT'S A GIVEN...
HEY ...

I'M THINKING OF TAKING BACK...
...THAT DECLARATION I MADE BEFORE.
HUH ?
YOU SAY SOMETHING?
...

I WON'T GET IN THE WAY...
...OF YOU AND HINA-NEE.
EH?
OH ...
SURE ...

Natsuo-kun

(no subject)

Hey.
Are you gonna be free during the holidays coming up?
I was thinking we could go on a Saturday date.
It's important to take a break once in a while. (^ ^)
I'll hope for a favorable reply.

HINA!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU WEAR THAT COAT BEFORE.
IS IT NEW?
YEAH.
I GOT IT FOR TODAY.
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
OKAY. SHALL WE?

I WASN'T EXPECTING TO MEET UP AT TOKYO STATION.
WAS IT SO WE DON'T RUN INTO ANYONE WE KNOW?
YEAH.
THAT, TOO, BUT...
WELL ...
JUST COME WITH ME.
カ
KA-SHIK
!

WHAT?
HUH?
WE AREN'T HAVING OUR DATE AROUND HERE?
ARE WE GOING SOMEWHERE?
YEAH.
WE'RE GONNA GO...
...SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, JUST THE TWO OF US.

CHAPTER 61: THE NEAR FUTURE

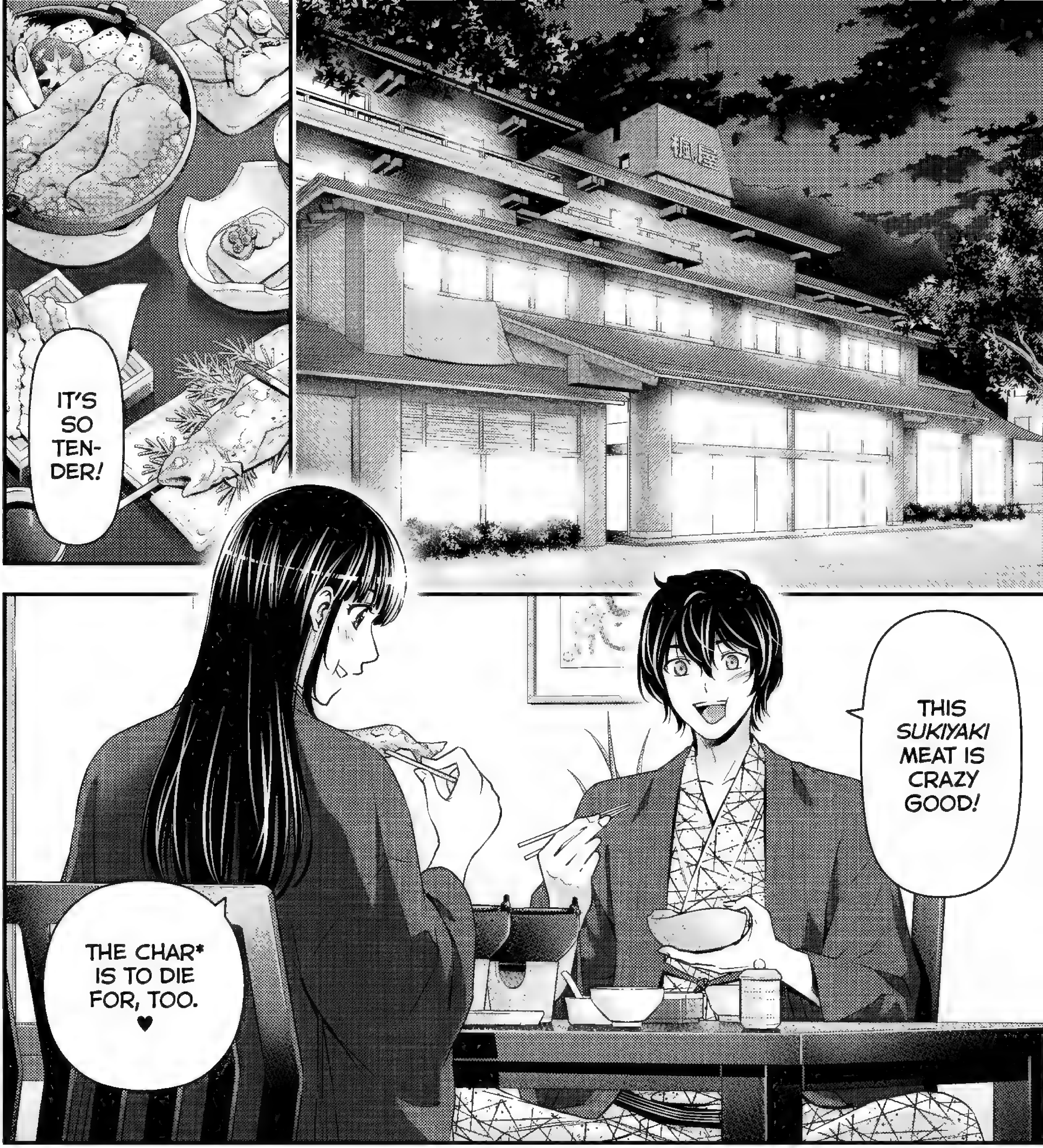
WHOA!
THIS MACKEREL SUSHI IS GREAT!
YOU SHOULD TRY SOME, HINA.
I'M GLAD I SKIPPED BREAKFAST.
S-SURE. THANKS ...
HEY, NATSUO-KUN...
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

HM?
LIKE WHERE EXACTLY WE'RE GOING...
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE.
FORGET ABOUT THAT, ISN'T THIS DELICIOUS?
OH, HAVE SOME OF MY TEA IF YOU WANT.
THEY ELOPED.
WHO?
MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S DAUGHTER.
APPARENTLY, HER BOYFRIEND'S PARENTS WERE AGAINST THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

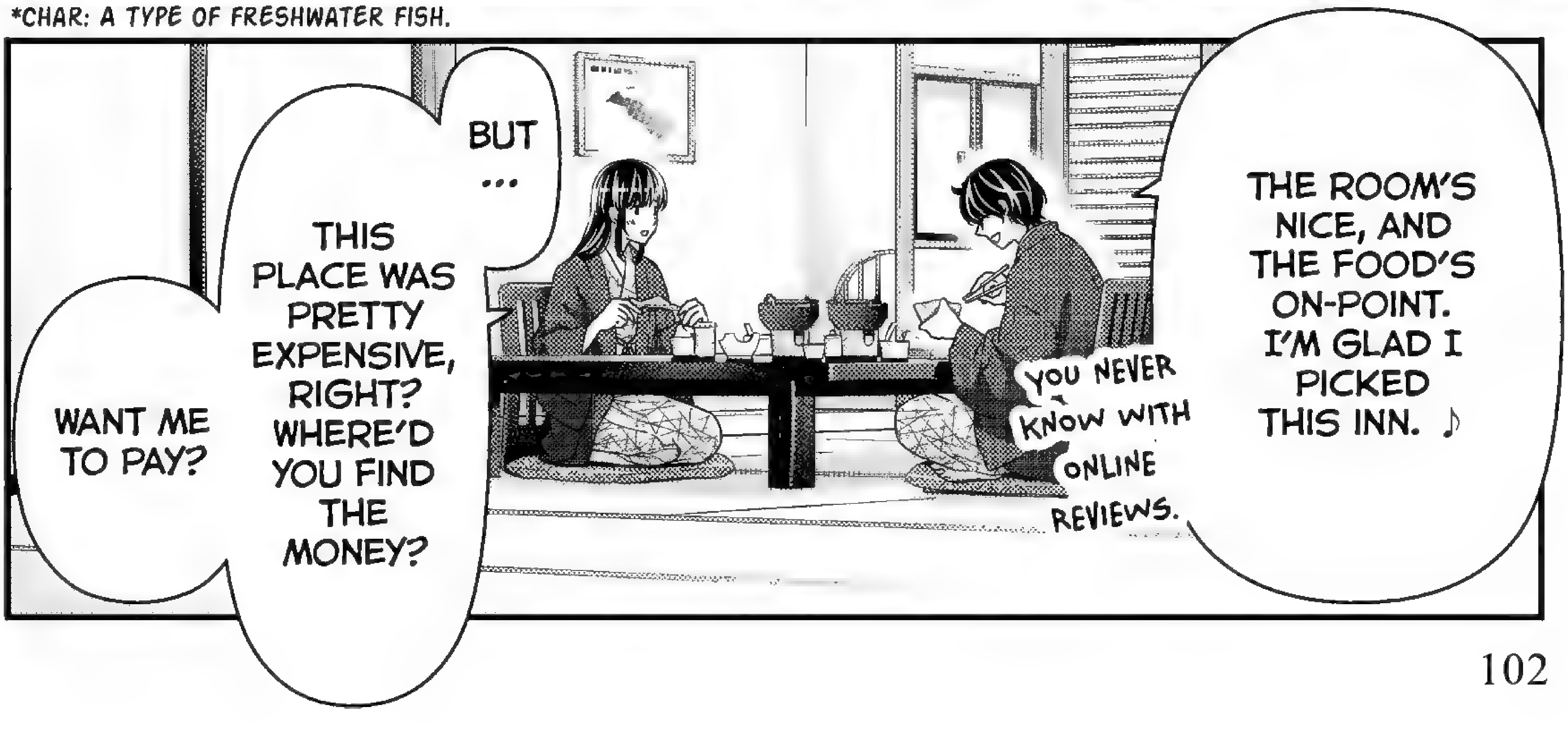
WOW...
I THOUGHT THAT SORT OF THING ONLY HAPPENED IN DRAMAS.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THINGS WILL WORK OUT FOR PEOPLE WHO GET MARRIED LIKE THAT?
BUT THEY'D JUST HAVE TO BREAK UP IF THEY DIDN'T DO THAT, RIGHT?
I THINK IT'S ON THEM TO MAKE THINGS WORK OUT...
NATSUO-KUN...
JUST SO YOU KNOW,
I'M PREPARED, TOO.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME,
I'LL GO ANYWHERE.
LET'S DO OUR BEST, TOGETHER!

JR
日光駅
Nikkō Station
NIKKO...
TOCHIGI?
WE'RE SURPRISINGLY CLOSE TO HOME.
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED SOMEWHERE FARHER?
YOU SAID YOU'VE BEEN FEELING TIRED LATELY,
SO I THOUGHT A HOT SPRINGS TRIP MIGHT BE NICE.
JUST A LITTLE SURPRISE.
WE CAN STILL CATCH THE AUTUMN LEAVES IN NIKKO.
I FIGURED IT'D BE A NICE WAY TO RELAX AND REFRESH.

OOOH, GOD!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?! I GOT ALL SORTS OF WEIRD IDEAS IN MY HEAD! I'M SO EMBARRASSED...
HUH? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
N-NAUGHTY STUFF...?
NO, DUMMY!
MONUMENT: TOSHOGU SHRINE
東照宮
Under Renovation
LET'S GET MATCHING SHIRTS!
MATCHING... WITH THAT...?
I ♥ NIKKO


IT'S SO TENDER!
THIS *SUKIYAKI* MEAT IS CRAZY GOOD!
THE CHAR* IS TO DIE FOR, TOO. ♥

*CHAR: A TYPE OF FRESHWATER FISH.


THE ROOM'S NICE, AND THE FOOD'S ON-POINT. I'M GLAD I PICKED THIS INN. ♪
YOU NEVER KNOW WITH ONLINE REVIEWS.
BUT ...
THIS PLACE WAS PRETTY EXPENSIVE, RIGHT? WHERE'D YOU FIND THE MONEY?
WANT ME TO PAY?

IT'S FINE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT THIS TIME!
BUT ...
I'M YOUNGER, AFTER ALL.
I CAN'T HELP BUT HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF A COMPLEX OVER IT.
SO LET ME SHOW OFF AT TIMES LIKE THESE AT LEAST.
OH, MY GOD.
I'LL WANT TO POUNCE ON YOU IF YOU BUST OUT A COOL LINE LIKE THAT!
BE MY GUEST!
AAH. I'M STUFFED.
THAT WAS A FEAST, HUH?
MISS ...
GLINT
THERE'S A SPOT FOR YOU RIGHT HERE.
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO POUNCE.
AH, HA, HA! NO WAY! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO WASHED UP ON SHORE!

HINA.
MIND TELLING ME...
...WHAT'S BEEN ON YOUR MIND?
HUH ...?
THE DAY YOU SAID WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY,
I THOUGHT IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO INVITE ME OVER.
YOU ACTED LIKE IT WAS NOTHING THAT DAY.
BUT ...
SOMETHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
BY ANY CHANCE,
YOU DON'T MEAN NASUO-KUN, DO YOU?

I FORGOT!
IT WAS PROBABLY SOMETHING REALLY TRIVIAL.
I STOPPED CARING ABOUT IT AS SOON AS I SAW YOU.
...
YOU'RE DODGING AGAIN.
NO, I'M NOT!
HINA,
I'M YOUR PARTNER NOW, AREN'T I?
IF SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME INSTEAD OF BOTTLING IT UP.
I WANT US TO BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING.
WE'RE GONNA TACKLE THINGS TOGETHER FROM NOW ON, AFTER ALL.

IT'S SOMETHING...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT, NATSUO-KUN.
...!
IT'S NOT LIKE TALKING ABOUT IT WILL SOLVE ANYTHING.
SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
FWIP
FMP
FMP
NA-
ALL RIGHT.
SLIDE
I GET WHERE YOU STAND NOW.

YOU...
...DON'T REALLY PLAN TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER AT ALL, DO YOU?
ゴッ GLUG
ゴッ GLUG
ゴッ GLUG
TINK
...
STAND
I SHOULD GO COOL MY HEAD.

AHH ...
...
I'M BEING PRETTY IMMATURE, HUH?
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
SPSH
KYAH!
ビタン!
BTMP
THAT VOICE ...!
HI-
HINA ?!
OWW ...

N-NATSUO-KUN?!
YOU'RE TAKING A BATH?!
I HEARD A SCREAM JUST NOW!
OH, I JUST SLIPPED. THAT'S ALL!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
YEAH!
OH ...
PLSH
UMM ...
I'M SORRY!
...!
ERR ...
WE SEEM TO SYNC UP A LOT, HUH?
...
REMEMBER ...
WHEN I WAS AT THE HOUSE THE OTHER DAY?
MOM KIND OF WARNED ME THAT NIGHT.
SHE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY SORT OF INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP GOING ON BETWEEN US STEP-SIBLINGS.

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS EXPECTING HER TO BE ACCEPTING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.
IT WAS JUST A REMINDER THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS WRONG.
I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING, BUT IT KNOCKED ME DOWN A COUPLE OF NOTCHES WHEN SHE SAID THAT SHE TRUSTS ME...
I THOUGHT THAT IF I TOLD YOU,
I'D JUST MAKE YOU WORRY NEEDLESSLY SINCE YOU AND MOM LIVE TOGETHER.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL LIKE YOU WERE WALKING ON EGGSHELLS.
SORRY...
...
HINA.
LISTEN TO ME.
I WAS SORT OF TORN AS TO WHAT TO DO,
BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND NOW.
AFTER I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL,
LET'S TELL DAD AND TSUKIKO-SAN ABOUT US.
IF WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON,
IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST IF WE TELL OUR FAMILY.

...
YEAH ...
楓屋

HA, HA.
WE EVEN GOT OUT AT THE SAME TIME.
WE REALLY ARE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.
SLIDE ガラ
OH!
THE FUTONS ARE OUT.

DID THEY WAIT FOR US TO LEAVE THE ROOM?
THAT'S THE KINDA SERVICE YOU CAN EXPECT FROM A GOOD INN!
AHH! THE FUTON IS SO FLUFFY! ♪
HINA.
CAN I GET A SEC?
SURE.
JUST TO BE CLEAR,
THE REASON I PLANNED THIS TRIP WAS SO YOU COULD RELAX.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT...
...I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
...I DON'T HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES!
SO, YOU'D BE FINE WITH IT IF WE JUST GO TO BED NOW?
NOD こく
HMM.

REAL-LY?
NOW I FEEL KIND OF SILLY...
FOR GETTING MY HOPES UP.
-FSHH

HINA!
FWAP
YOU SMELL SO GOOD.
AH, HA, HA. WELL, I JUST TOOK A BATH, AFTER ALL.
WANT ME TO TAKE OFF MY *YUKATA?*
NAH, LEAVE IT ON.
IT'S WAY SEXIER THAT WAY...
YOU BIG PERV!
HINA...
I'M GONNA GO MY BEST.
I'LL WORK HARD,
AND BECOME A CAPABLE NOVELIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'M SURE YOUR MOM WILL BE ACCEPTING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP THEN.
SO...
YEAH...
I BELIEVE YOU...

CHAPTER 62: HAPPY TIMES

AWAKE?
IT'S BRIGHT...

MORNING.
HE, HE.
THAT'S SOME BEDHEAD.

MORNING!
FWAP
AAH!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?
I'M JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE THE WOMAN I LOVE WHEN I WAKE UP.
COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
...
AAH ...
I KINDA FEEL LIKE...
...STAYING IN BED TOGETHER UNTIL NOON.
SLIDE
HUH?
NUH-UH, MISTER.
WE HAVE TO GET READY AND GO DOWN FOR BREAKFAST.
PLUS ...

THERE'S SOMEWHERE...
...I WANT TO STOP BY BEFORE WE HEAD BACK.
STOP BY WHERE?
お土産 さくた
おみやげ さくた
お土産・グッズ
RURIIRO
アクセサリー店 瑠璃色
THANKS FOR WAITING!

RUI
accessories sh
THAT TOOK A WHILE. DID YOU FIND ANYTHING YOU LIKED?
THEY DO ENGRAVING, SO I HAD THEM PUT NAMES IN.
SO, IT WAS AN ACCESSORY STORE YOU WANTED TO GO TO.
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF PLACES WE COULD GO BACK HOME.
I WANTED TO GET SOMETHING DURING THIS TRIP.
HERE.
HUH?
ERR.
FOR ME?
UH-HUH.
OPEN IT.
AN ACCESSORY?
RSTL ガサ
RSTL ガサ
WHAT COULD IT BE?

A RING!
IT HAS INITIALS IN IT.
N FOR YOU,
N & H
AND H FOR ME.
...
I'D BEEN WANTING TO GET YOU SOMETHING FOR A WHILE.

EVEN THOUGH YOU GAVE ME THIS RING DURING THE SCHOOL TRIP,
I CAN'T REALLY WEAR IT OUTDOORS.
BUT I ALWAYS KEEP IT WITH ME IN MY BAG.
LOOKING AT THIS GIVES ME STRENGTH WHEN WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER,
SO I WANTED TO GET YOU SOMETHING AS A TOKEN OF OUR TRIP, TOO.
FWAP
THANKS...
I PROMISE,
I'LL TREASURE IT FOREVER.

YEAH
...

DECEMBER EVENT CALENDAR
FACULTY
THIS MAKES WHAT, EIGHT NOW?

UHH...
YEAH, THIS IS THE EIGHTH.
YOU'RE PERSISTENT.
I WAS SURE A YOUNGSTER WITH A SICKENINGLY-SWEET, NAÏVE MINDSET LIKE YOU WOULD'VE GOTTEN BORED AND GIVEN UP IN NO TIME.
THAT'S PRETTY HARSH, SENSEI.
SICKENINGLY-SWEET?
ALL RIGHT,
AS FOR THIS WEEK'S WORK...
L-LAY IT ON ME!
IT'S NOT BAD.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HUH?"
I MEAN,
YOU'VE TORN THEM APART UNTIL NOW...

THAT'S NOT TO SAY I HAVE NO COMMENTS.
THE CLINCHER IS WEAK AND THE PROLOGUE DRAGS ON.
BUT YOU'RE CLEARLY WRITING WITH ALL OF MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS IN MIND.
IT'S YOUR BEST WORK SO FAR.
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HMM...
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS LITERARY MAGAZINE, FUJII-KUN?
OH, I RECOGNIZE IT, ANYWAY.
Literature Galaxy
WHILE IT'S NOT A VERY WELL-KNOWN MAGAZINE,
IT'S DIVIDED INTO VARIOUS UNCONVENTIONAL CATEGORIES AND IS CURRENTLY SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR A MONTHLY PRIZE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SUBMITTING YOUR WORK...
TO THE SHORT STORY CATEGORY?
...!
SOME REVISIONS WILL BE NECESSARY, OF COURSE.
YES!
ABSOLUTELY!

カラオケ RIP ECHO
SAKURA~
SAKURA~
ONE WHO NEVER SHOWS, NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU WAIT...
...IS NO DIFFERENT THAN A CORPSE.
SAKURA, SAKURA~
A SNOWSTORM OF FLOWERS~
WHY YOZAKURA OSHICHI?!
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD SING SOME COOL WESTERN SONGS!
MY MA LOVES THIS SONG, SO I HEARD IT ALL THE TIME!
AND YOU! QUIT GETTING COMPETITIVE AND FILLING THE LOG WITH OLDIES!
TAK TAK TAK TAK
NOW, NOW.
WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE TACHIBANA-SAN'S ACHIEVEMENT, AFTER ALL.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS EVERYONE HAS FUN.

WHO CAN HAVE FUN WHEN ALL SHE PICKS ARE DARK SONGS?!
LIKE BY NAOMI CHIAKI AND DOJI MORITA!
BASKED IN PETALS,
I AM THOSE SEVEN SAKURA TREES OF THE NIGHT~
HEEEY. LET'S SING STUFF LIKE KANA NISHINO AND SEKAI NO OWARI...
HUH?
YOU FOUND A PLACE TO LIVE, MAKI-SAN?
YEP!
I CHECKED OUT ALL SORTS OF PLACES BETWEEN WORK AND FINALLY SNAGGED ONE.
THAT'S GREAT.
OH, YEAH. HINA TOLD ME...
...YOU'VE BEEN WRITING NOVELS FOR THE LITERATURE CLUB ADVISOR TO LOOK AT.

YEAH... I'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, THOUGH.
THAT ATTITUDE IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT!
YOUR EYES ARE LOOKING SHARPER, TOO.
I FEEL MORE AT EASE LEAVING HINA IN YOUR CARE NOW.
JUST DON'T GO AT IT LIKE RABBITS TOO MUCH.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK THE NEXT DAY IF YOU TRY TO KEEP UP WITH A TEENAGER'S SEX DRIVE.
MAKI ...!
TA-DAAAA!
I GOT YOU A SOUVENIR FROM OUR TRIP!
I LOVE NIKKO

I BROUGHT IT TO SCHOOL SINCE YOU WOULDN'T COME OVER.
YOU WANT ME...
...TO WEAR THIS?!
ISN'T IT ADORABLE?!
JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE I GOT YOU IT, OKAY?
...
DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?
YEAH!
THAT'S GOOD.
HUG
SORRY.
HEY!
THANKS.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, RUI.

NEXT TIME,
I WANT TO GO ON A TRIP WITH JUST THE TWO OF US.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
SURE ...
わ
の言
たように
完璧な幸せ
Perfect happiness

TACHIBANA-SENSEI.
YES?
THE CHAIRMAN WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU IN THE MEETING ROOM ABOUT THE FINALS EXAMS.
OH.
SURE THING.
IS IT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS I SUBMITTED YESTERDAY?
I WONDER IF THEY DIDN'T CUT IT.
EXCUSE ME.
ガラ CLACK
AH, TACHIBANA-SENSEI.
SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT HERE.
IT'S NO TROUBLE.

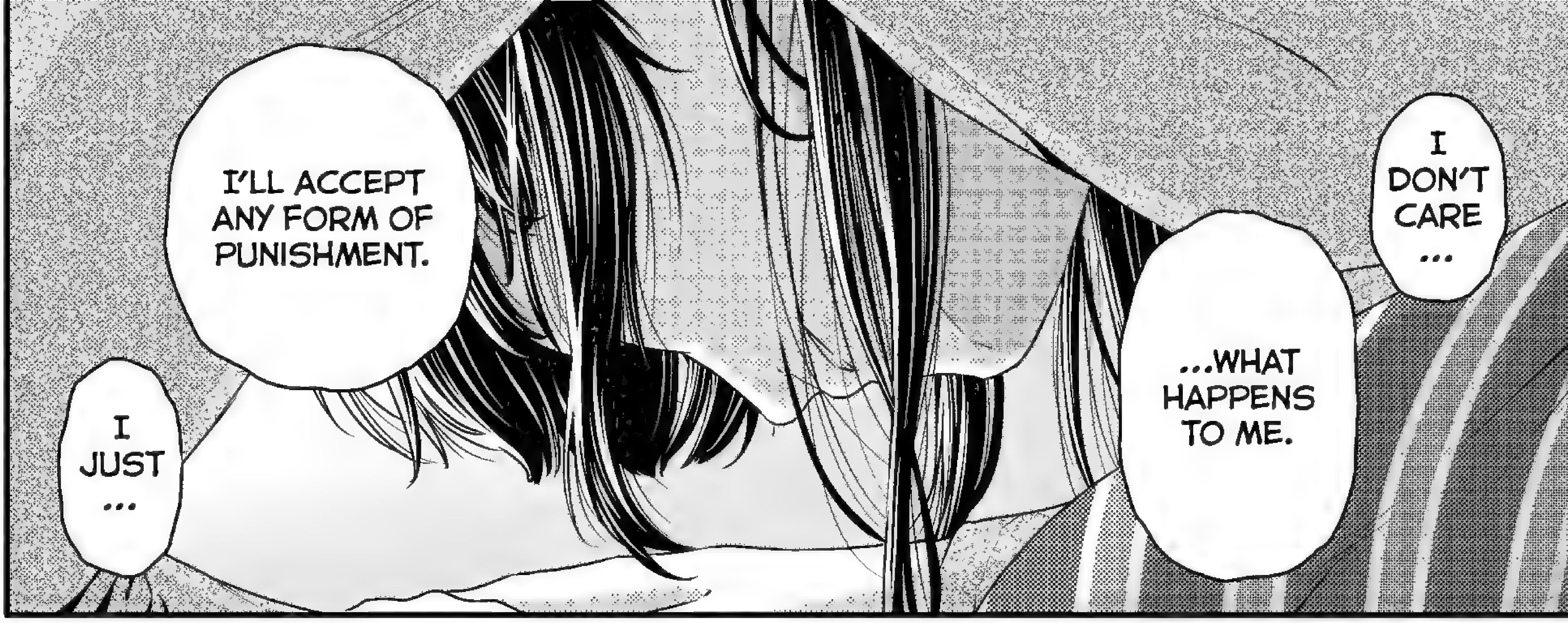
YOU WANTED TO SPEAK TO ME ABOUT TERM FINALS?
YES.
THAT, TOO. BUT FIRST...
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT.
THIS.
SWIF
スッ
THE PHOTOS FOR THE GRADUATION ALBUM CAME BACK FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHERS.
THIS APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THE FIREWORKS BEING REFLECTED IN THE HOTEL WINDOWS,
BUT CAN YOU SEE HERE?
IN THE TOP LEFT WINDOW...
WHAT...
...DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?

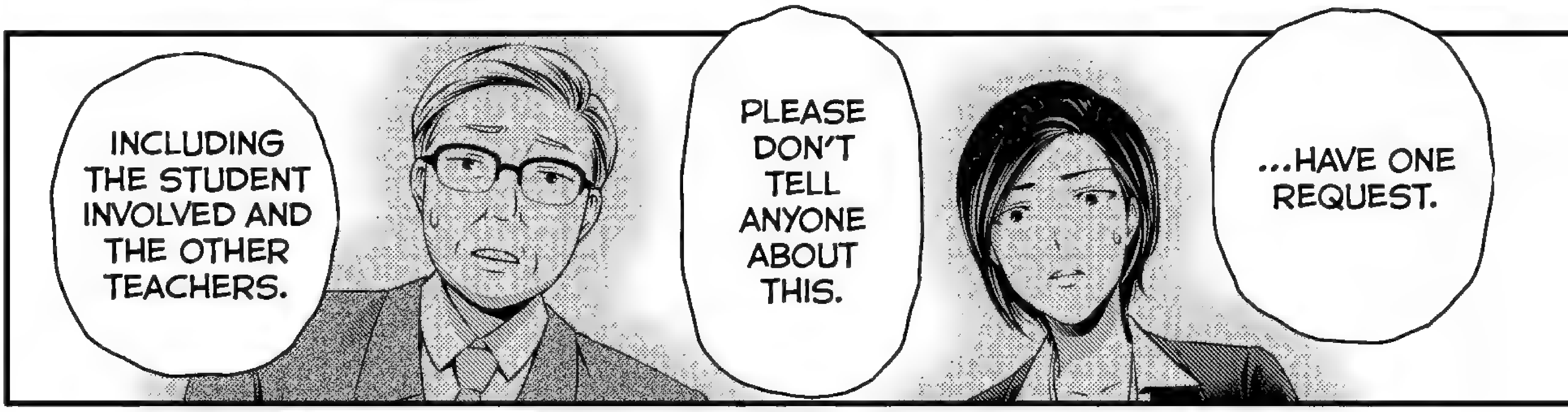
CHAPTER 63: HINA'S DECISION

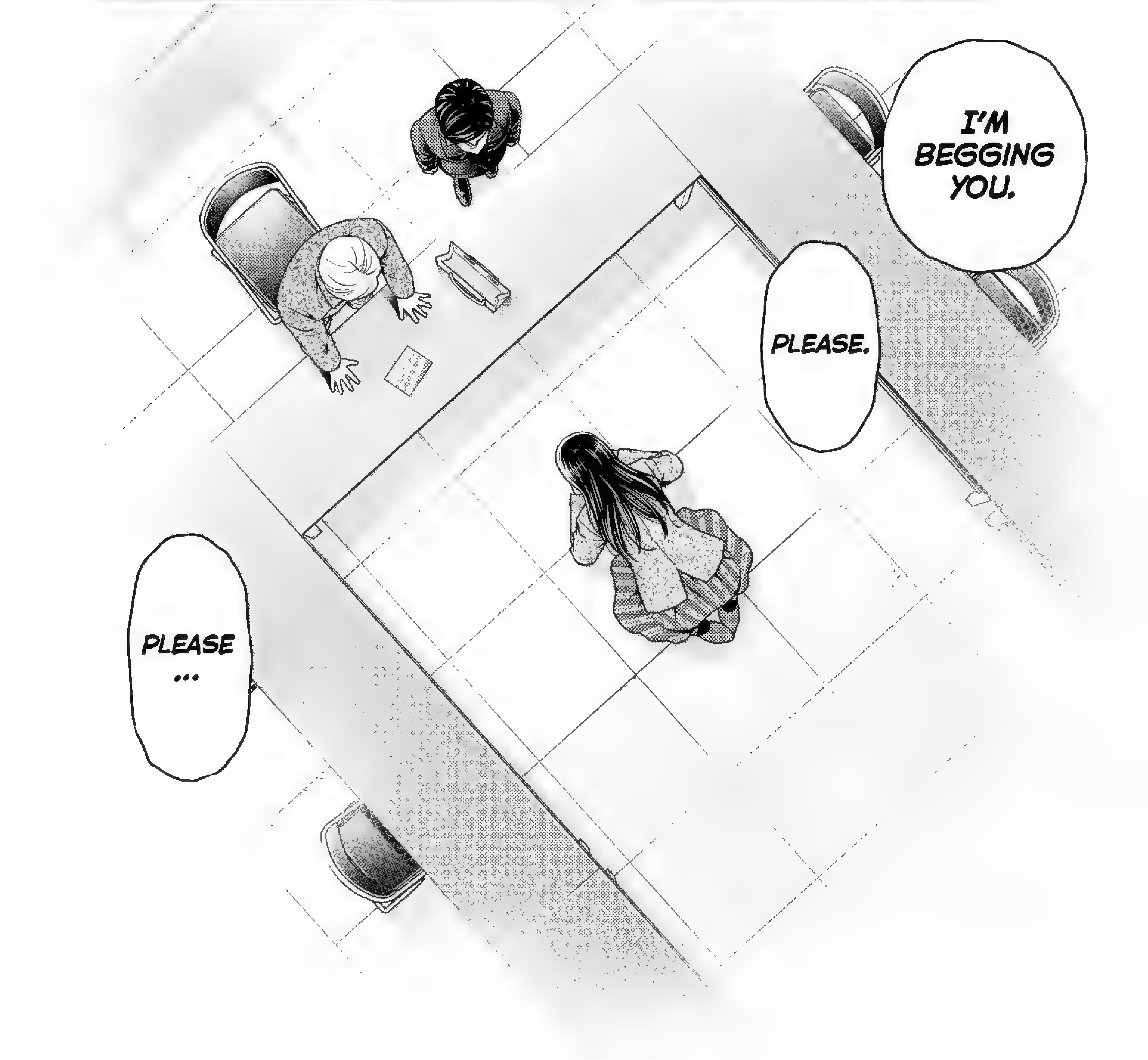
YANASE-SENSEI FOUND THIS WHILE CHECKING THE PHOTOS FOR THE ALBUM.
IF THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING, THEN PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO SAY SO.
TH-
THIS IS,
UM ...
JUDGING FROM THE LOCATION, THIS WAS YOUR ROOM, WASN'T IT, TACHIBANA-SENSEI?

IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT,
THAT NIGHT, YOU DECLINED TO CHAPERONE THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL, CORRECT?
JUDGING FROM THE MAN'S STATURE, HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ONE OF THE TEACHERS.
AND AFTER LOOKING THROUGH THE OTHER PHOTOS THAT WERE SENT,
HE APPEARS TO BE ...
NATSUO FUJII.
...
DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS?
JUDGING BY YOUR SILENCE,
I TAKE IT THAT THIS IS TRUE.

HOW LONG HAS THIS RELATIONSHIP BEEN GOING ON?
WHO ...
WHO ELSE ...
...KNOWS ABOUT ALL OF THIS?
CURRENTLY, JUST ME,
AND YANASE-SENSEI HERE.
I SUSPECT A FACULTY MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE CALLED EVENTUALLY.
AND WE MUST CONFIRM THE FACTS WITH THE STUDENT, AS WELL.
FWIP
WHA ?!
TA-
TACHIBANA-SENSEI!
PLEASE GET UP. AN APOLOGY ISN'T ENOUGH TO-
I KNOW.
I'VE DONE SOMETHING UNFORGIVEABLE.


I DON'T CARE ...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.
I'LL ACCEPT ANY FORM OF PUNISHMENT.
I JUST ...


...HAVE ONE REQUEST.
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
INCLUDING THE STUDENT INVOLVED AND THE OTHER TEACHERS.


I'M BEGGING YOU.
PLEASE.
PLEASE ...

I LOVE NIKKO
HMM ...
THIS SHIRT LOOKS LAME NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR WITH IT.
ぼ
POMF
すっ
SKSH
MAYBE I'LL TRY...
...GROWING MY HAIR OUT, TOO.

OH, YEAH.
DID YOU READ THE STORY I'M GOING TO SUBMIT?
I DID.
YOU REWROTE IT INSTEAD OF JUST MAKING REVISIONS, RIGHT?
YEAH. I FIGURED I'D BE ABLE TO POLISH IT UP MORE THAT WAY.
A-HA. WELL, IT WAS EASY TO UNDERSTAND AND A GOOD READ.
BUT ...
YOU'VE MADE SURE TO STUDY FOR YOUR TESTS, RIGHT?
FINALS THIS TERM COVERS A LOT.
NO PROBLEM.
KIRIYA-SENSEI SAID HE'D STOP LOOKING AT MY WORK IF MY GRADES FELL, SO I'M KEEPING UP ON THAT FRONT, TOO.

WELL,
IF YOU'RE GOOD ON STUDYING ...
...THEN IF YOU'RE FREE THIS SUNDAY,
WANNA HAVE A DATE AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK?
SEEING AS YOU FINISHED YOUR STORY FOR THE CONTEST,
I WANT TO TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE THIS TIME TO CELEBRATE.
SURE!

PHEW...
IT SURE IS PACKED ON SUNDAYS.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE SOME ATTRACTIONS THAT DON'T HAVE THAT LONG OF LINES.
WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE IT EASY?
SURE...
BUT WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE AROUND, WE MIGHT RUN INTO SOMEONE WE KNOW.
WANNA USE THESE AS CAMOUFLAGE, THEN?
GOOD CALL!

P

Delights
PHEW... THAT LAST WATER RIDE WAS CRAZY.
MY HEART'S STILL POUNDING.
IF THAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOU, THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE SPACE RIDE.
Delights
WHERE TO NEXT?
HOW ABOUT THE PIRATE SHIP?
HEY.
WHEN WE'RE LIKE THIS...
...WE LOOK LIKE A REGULAR COUPLE, DON'T WE?
HUH?
I THINK ABOUT IT FROM TIME TO TIME.
IF WE...
HAD MET AS NORMAL SCHOOLMATES...
...WOULD YOU HAVE STILL FALLEN FOR ME?
IF WE'D ENDED UP DATING, WOULD WE STUDY TOGETHER AND GO ON DATES AFTER SCHOOL?
THOUGH THERE'S NOT REALLY ANY POINT...
THINKING ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
NO MATTER WHEN OR HOW WE MET...
...I STILL WOULD'VE BEEN DRAWN TO YOU, HINA.
AND IF YOU PUT ASIDE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES,
WE ARE JUST ANOTHER NORMAL COUPLE.
MOMMY! SIT HERE!
OKAY, OKAY.
ONCE I FINISH SCHOOL,
WE WON'T BE SO CONSTRAINED ANYMORE.
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD BECOME LIKE THAT, TOO.

THAT WAS FUN!
WE ENDED UP RIDING A LOT.
I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
IS IT COOL IF I COME IN FOR A BIT?
NOPE.
YOU'LL BE LATE GETTING HOME IF YOU COME OVER NOW.
STARTING TODAY, NO COMING OVER UNTIL TESTS ARE OVER!
AWW.
BUT THAT'S SO LONG...
HEY.
WILL YOU KISS ME?

HUH? NOW?
HOW ELSE TO END A DATE THAN WITH A KISS?
NO?
GLADLY.

HINA ...?
AH, HA ... SORRY.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE GONE ON SUCH A NORMAL DATE.
I'M JUST SO HAPPY ...
THANK YOU.
I'LL NEVER FORGET TODAY.
I CAN GO HOME HAPPY TONIGHT.
HINA ...
HE, HE.
WE'LL NEVER PART IF WE KEEP LINGERING LIKE THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU HEAD HOME?
ALL RIGHT.
SEE YA.

GOOD-BYE.

MAN, I FEEL ON TOP OF THE WORLD!
EVEN THOUGH YOUR TEST SCORES WERE TERRIBLE?
DUMBASS, I COULDN'T GIVE LESS OF A SHIT ABOUT TESTS.
NOT WHEN I'M SO STOKED FOR WINTER BREAK!
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL BE LIVING THE GOOD LIFE AND GETTING UP WHEN I PLEASE!
EVERY DAY WILL BE A FESTIVAL!
WHAT KINDA SPEECH DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET FROM THE PRINCIPAL TODAY?
1,000 YEN* SAYS IT'S A LONG ONE.
I'LL PUT 1,000 ON LONG, TOO.
HOW'S THAT A BET, THEN?
AS SOON AS SCHOOL GETS OUT,
I'LL RUSH OVER TO HINA'S.
I SHOULD BUY A CAKE TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SECOND TERM.
UMM.
THIS SECOND TERM...
...CAME AND WENT BY IN A FLASH.

*APPROX. 10 USD.

BUT BEFORE I SPEAK TODAY,
I'D LIKE TO GIVE THE FLOOR TO A TEACHER WHO WILL BE LEAVING US FOR A FEW WORDS.
WHISPER
LEAVING?
WHO COULD IT BE?
WHISPER
IF YOU'D PLEASE.

CHAPTER 64: LETTER

NO WAY.
HINA-CHAN ...?
UMM.
I'M SORRY TO TAKE UP YOUR TIME DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
AS THE PRINCIPAL MENTIONED JUST NOW ...

DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS...
...I WILL BE TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS.
え—っ!
WHAAAT?!
WHISPER
ヒソ
SHE DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
ヒソ
WHISPER
MAYBE SHE'S GETTING MARRIED.
ヒソ
WHISPER
WHISPER
ヒソ…
THINK THERE WAS SOME KINDA SCANDAL?
THIS IS ALL VERY SUDDEN.
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THE SECOND-YEARS WHO I'VE BEEN TEACHING, FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL YOU SOONER.
A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER WILL BE TAKING OVER FOR ME AFTER WINTER BREAK.
DON'T GO, SENSEI!
STAY UNTIL GRADUATION!
THANK YOU.

THIS IS THE FIRST SCHOOL I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH AT...
...AND A PLACE I WILL REMEMBER FONDLY FOR GIVING ME MY FIRST STUDENTS.
WHILE I WAS A VERY INEXPERIENCED TEACHER,
I'D LIKE TO THINK I, TOO, HAVE GROWN OVER THE TWO YEARS I'VE SPENT WITH YOU ALL.
I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM.
THOUGH I'M MOVING TO A NEW SCHOOL,
I HOPE TO USE MY EXPERIENCES HERE TO BETTER MYSELF AS AN EDUCATOR.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE FOND MEMORIES.
I WILL NEVER...
...FORGET ABOUT ANY OF YOU.

RUI!
NATSUO...
DID SENSEI TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
NOTHING...
NOT YOU, EITHER?
NO...
WAS SHE ACTING STRANGE AT ALL?
THE LAST TIME WE MET UP WAS RIGHT BEFORE TESTS.
WE TEXTED AND TALKED ON THE PHONE AFTER THAT...
...BUT SHE SEEMED NORMAL THEN, TOO.

トゥルルル TRRR
トゥルルル TRRR
トゥルルル TRRR
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED...
...IS CURRENTLY OUT OF RANGE.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE—
BOOP
HEY, NATSUO.
WE'RE HEADING HOME.
OH.
SURE...
SEE YA.
HE'S BEEN ON HIS PHONE EVER SINCE THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
WHOSE PHONE IS HE BLOWING UP?
MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO GET CONCERT TICKETS.

…
カタッ
CLATR
FACULTY
ガラッ
SLIDE

...
WHICH TEACHER DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH?
UH,
UMM ...
IS...
TACHIBANA-SENSEI IN?
SHE APPEARS TO BE AWAY FROM HER SEAT AT THE MOMENT.
PLEASE GO ON HOME TODAY.
HUH?
BUT ...
...
ALL RIGHT...

タ
ン
ッ
FTMP
KIRIYA-SENSEI...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
YES.
JUST HAVING A SMOKE.
IT WAS A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU, ALBEIT FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME.
THE SUMMER CAMPING TRIP WAS VERY FUN.
I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY LITTLE SISTER IN THE LITERATURE CLUB.

WERE YOU FOUND OUT...
...BY THE HIGHER-UPS?
...!
I'D HAD...
MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS.
FUJII-KUN'S NOVEL, FOR ONE.
AND WHEN I SAW YOU TWO TOGETHER DURING THE CAMPING TRIP...
...
I DON'T MEAN TO CONDEMN YOU.

FALLING IN LOVE...
IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE HELPED, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR SOCIAL STANDING.
I MERELY THINK ...
KARMA PLAYS A FUNNY ROLE IN IT ALL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...
... KARMA ?
THIS HAPPENED SOME YEARS AGO,
WHEN HAGIWARA-KUN WAS STILL YOUR TEACHER.
IT'S DESPICABLE, RIGHT?
I KNOW THAT.
FALLING IN LOVE WITH A STUDENT...
HAGIWARA,
I WON'T DENOUNCE YOUR FEELINGS...
...BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A STUDENT.
IF YOU DECIDE TO ACT ON YOUR URGES...
...YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, DON'T YOU?

AT THE TIME,
HE'D ALSO BEEN HARBORING AFFECTION FOR YOU, HIS STUDENT.
TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD ACTUALLY CROSS THAT LINE...
IS... THAT SO?
HE, HE.
IF I HAD JUST TALKED TO YOU, MAYBE THIS WOULDN'T HAVE...
NO...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MIGHT HAVE OPPOSED IT...
...I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD BACK THESE FEELINGS.

ダッ TAP
ダン TAP
ダン TAP
ッ
ガチャ CHIK
ガチャ CHIK
カチャンッ KER-CHAK
カッ CLACK
チャッ
ッ
FWP

THUD

HINA ...
WHY ...?
WHY ?!

A!!
DASH
FWIP
To Natsuo-kun

…to be continued.

SIDE STORY:
NIGHT OF THE OKINAWA TRIP

AHHH.
I'M SO BORED.
AREN'T YOU GONNA MEET UP WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, YUYA?
I GUESS THE GIRLS ARE HAVING A LITTLE PARTY IN RINA'S ROOM.
A SCHOOL TRIP'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GO NUTS, TOO...
DON'T EVEN HAVE TO PAY FOR A HOTEL.
WHAAAT? I DON'T...
HA, HA.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR GIVING HER THE COLD SHOULDER ALL THE TIME.

THE KING'S GAME?
YUP!
I'M SURE YOU GUYS ARE BORED, TOO.
AND NO ONE THOUGHT TO BRING A DECK OF CARDS.
IT'S FUN AND THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.
PERFECT, RIGHT?

WHAT'S THE KING'S GAME?
UMM.
EVERYONE DRAWS A NUMBER, THEN WHOEVER PULLS THE MARKED LOT IS THE KING AND GIVES ORDERS.
"NUMBER ONE HAS TO TELL NUMBER THREE A SECRET," FOR EXAMPLE.
OHH!
THERE'S A SIMILAR GAME IN THE STATES.
WE'RE GONNA MIX THINGS UP A LITTLE THIS TIME, THOUGH.
YOU LITERATURE CLUB KIDS WILL PROBABLY ONLY GIVE WEAK ORDERS IF YOU BECOME KING.
SO, WE MADE LOTS FOR ORDERS, TOO!
YOU GUYS SURE CAME PREPARED...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DRIVE OF PARTY PEOPLE.

WHO'S THE KING?!
AH!
ME?!
OKAY, YOUR HIGHNESS. DRAW, PLEASE.
TALK ABOUT PRESSURE...
"POCKY GAME,"
IS WHAT IT SAYS.
Pocky Game
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY POCKY.
AU CONTRAIRE.
OKAY, MIU-CHAN. PICK SOME NUMBERS.
YOU GUYS ARE TOO PREPARED.
UMM...
TWO AND...
FIVE?

TWO, AND ...
FIVE.
!
WHOA-HO! RUI-CHAN?!
2
5
AHH ... I'M SORRY ...
ALRIGHTY. BITE DOWN.
LET THE GAME BEGIN. ♥
...
カリ… CRUNCH
カリ CRUNCH
カリ… CRUNCH

OOOH.
KISSY FACE!
Nooo!
FWIP
STOP RIGHT THERE!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, AL?
THE POINT OF THE GAME IS TO PLAY CHICKEN!
EBEN IF IDS A GAME...
...YOU SHOULDN'T GO TOO FAR!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY...
M'KAY. ROUND TWO!
WHO'S THE KING?!
OH.
I AM.
WHAT'S THE ORDER?
UHH.
STRIP ONE PIECE OF CLOTHING?!
CALL A NUMBER!
ERR. OKAY...
THREE.
AH.
THAT'S ME.
BUT KASHIWABARA-SAN'S WEARING A ONE-PIECE. IF SHE TAKES THAT OFF...

W-WELL, THE CARDIGAN AROUND YOUR SHOULDERS WORKS—
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO STRIP IN FRONT OF EVERYONE,
BUT I CAN'T DISOBEY AN ORDER FROM THE GUY I LIKE.
OH, WELL ...
も!!
MRRF
が!!っ
ERR ...
ジ
ZIIIIP...
ス
SLIP
ル
おおおおお
OOOOOH
I'M SO GLAD ...
...I WORE MY GOOD UNDERWEAR, JUST IN CASE.

HEY, DO I LOOK CUTE? ♥
I, UH ...
YEAH ...
NOW THAT THINGS ARE GETTING EXCITING, LET'S KEEP THE GAME ROLLING!
WOO! I'M THE KING THIS TIME.
THE ORDER IS...
"FLASH YOUR UNDIES."
DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS ONLY PREPARED PERVERTED ORDERS...
OKEY-DOKEY! NUMBER ONE!
HUH ?!
ME?!
WHAAAT? AL?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I'M NOT WEARING A SKIRT OR ANYTHING...

LOWERING YOUR SHORTS A LITTLE SHOULD WORK, RIGHT?
I KINDA FEEL OBLIGATED TO WHEN MOMO-CHAN SAYS IT...
ALL RIGHT ...
JUST A PEEK.
AH, QUIT ACTING LIKE A PANSY.
YANK
DROP TROU, SOLDIER!
!

WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YU-CHAN?!
ALLIE'S PACKING!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL "AMERICAN SIZE"?
THAT BUMMED ME OUT...
THANKS NAT-CHAN.
NO SENSE COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS.
NEXT!
OH.
I'M UP THIS TIME.
THE ORDER IS,
"EAT A POPSICLE SEXILY."
WOO-HOO!
THIS IS A FUN ONE NO MATTER WHO DOES IT!
I'LL GO BUY THE POPSICLE!
WOULD YOU GUYS GIVE IT A REST ALREADY?!
UMM.
AS FOR THE NUMBER...

SIX!
EH? ME?!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO!
SHE'S THE LEAST SUITABLE PERSON FOR THIS ...
は
NOM
む
っ
IS... THIS OKAY ?
HMM.
NOT QUITE.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT, SO I'LL TEACH YOU, MIU-CHAN.
"SEXILY" IS MORE LIKE...

TAKE THIS...
...AND HOLD IT LIKE THIS.
HM.
MMF!
CHUP
ヌッ
SHLUP
ヌプッ
チュッ
SHK
ヌプッ
SHLUP
HNH!
AHF...
ップ
CHAP
STOP, STOP, STOP!
THAT VISUAL IS WAY OUTTA BOUNDS!
D-DID I...
...DO IT RIGHT?
ハァ
HUFF
ハァ
HUFF
ハァ
HUFF
NAILED IT...
LIGHTS OUT, EVERYONE!

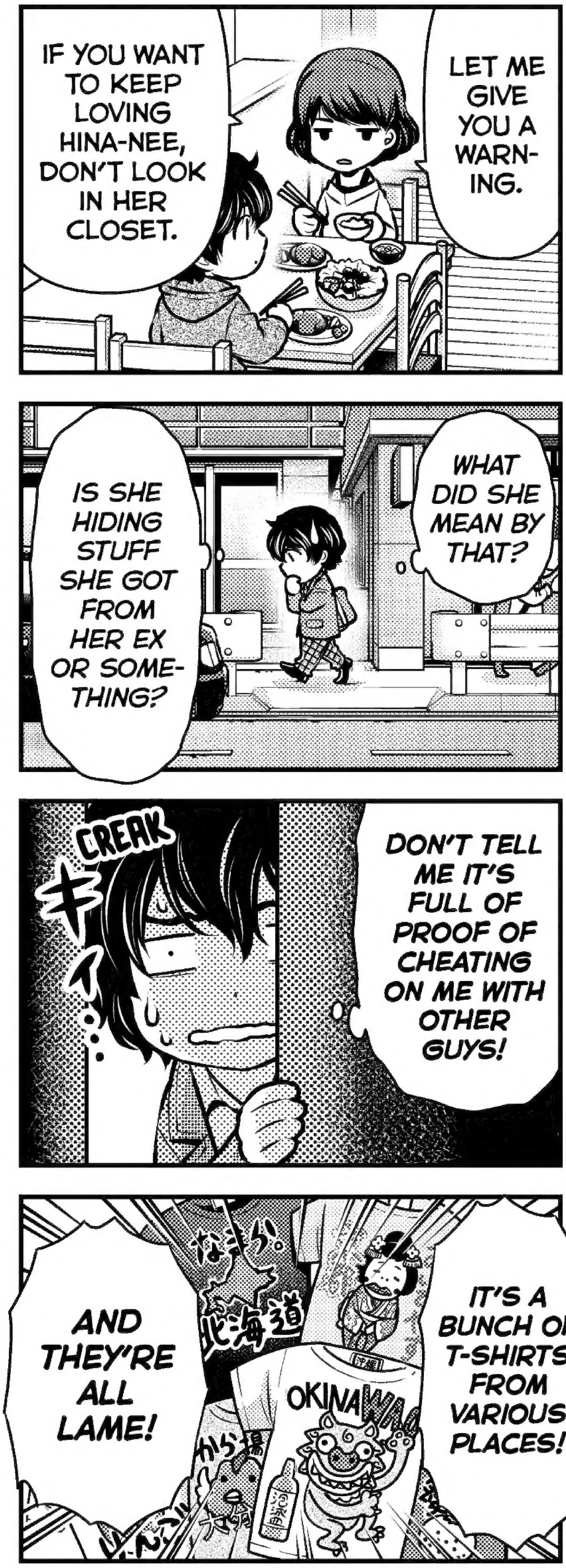
SHIT! THE TEACHER'S COMING!
HIDE!
ガチャ CLACK
SILENCE ...
EVERYONE ASLEEP?
もぞ… RSTL
!

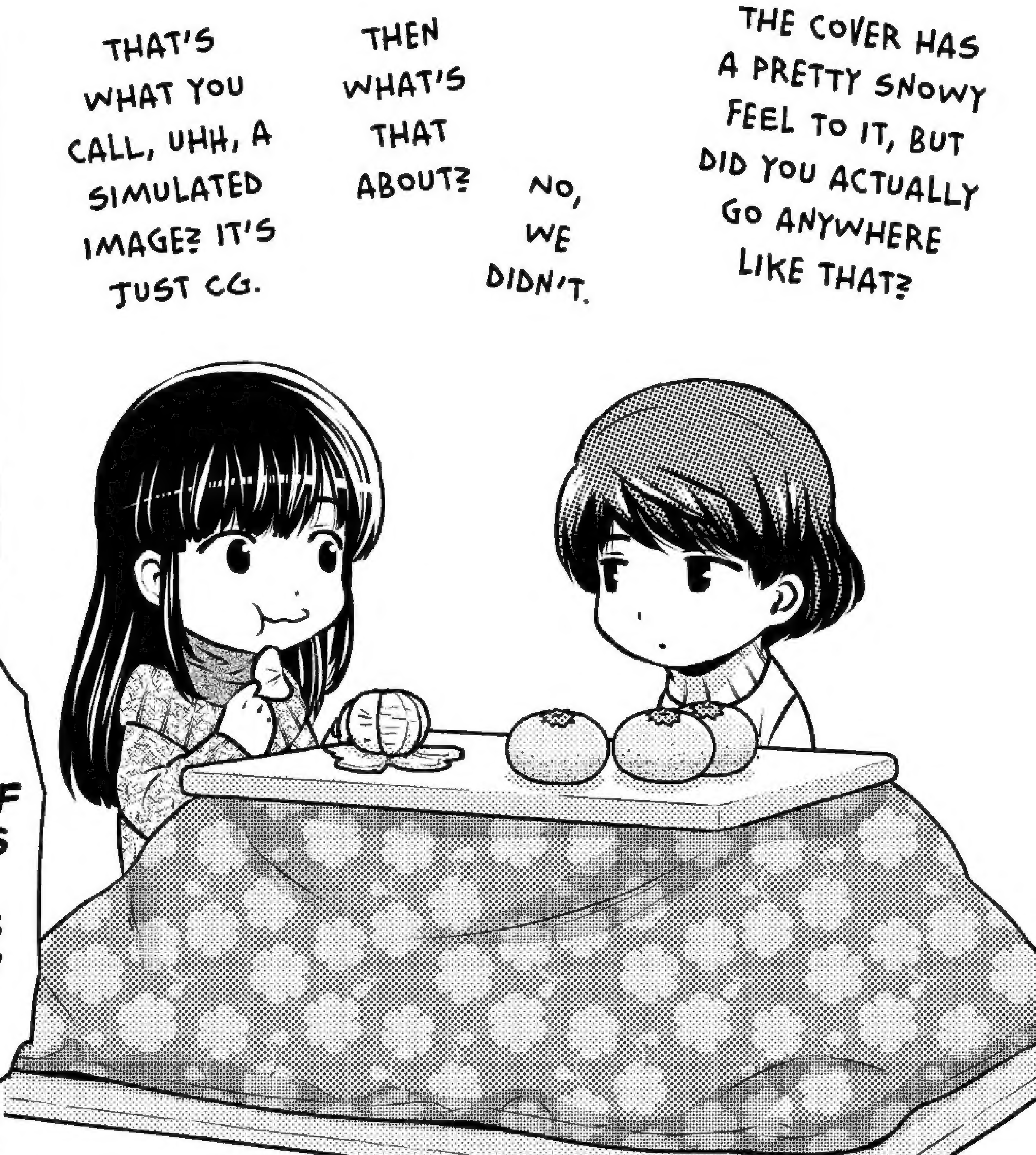
MOMO!
THIS SITUATION...
...IS PRETTY EXCITING, HUH? ♥
WHY DON'T WE...
...KICK IT UP A NOTCH? ♥
ふ
WHA–
にゅ
MOOSH
POMF
AH HA! ♥
SOFT, RIGHT? ♥

ふに RUB
ふに RUB
YOUR FACE IS GETTING HOT, NATSUO-KUN. ♥
ARE YOU EXCITED?
ふにっ RUB
OH, SHIT ...
I'M PASSING OUT ...
E- ENOUGH ALREADY!
WHAT ARE YOU KIDS DOING?!
IDIOT!
MAN ...
THE HELL WERE YOU GUYS FOOLING AROUND UNDER THE SHEETS FOR?
I SAY NATSUO HAS TO TREAT EVERYONE TO ICE CREAM.
IT'S MY FAULT?!

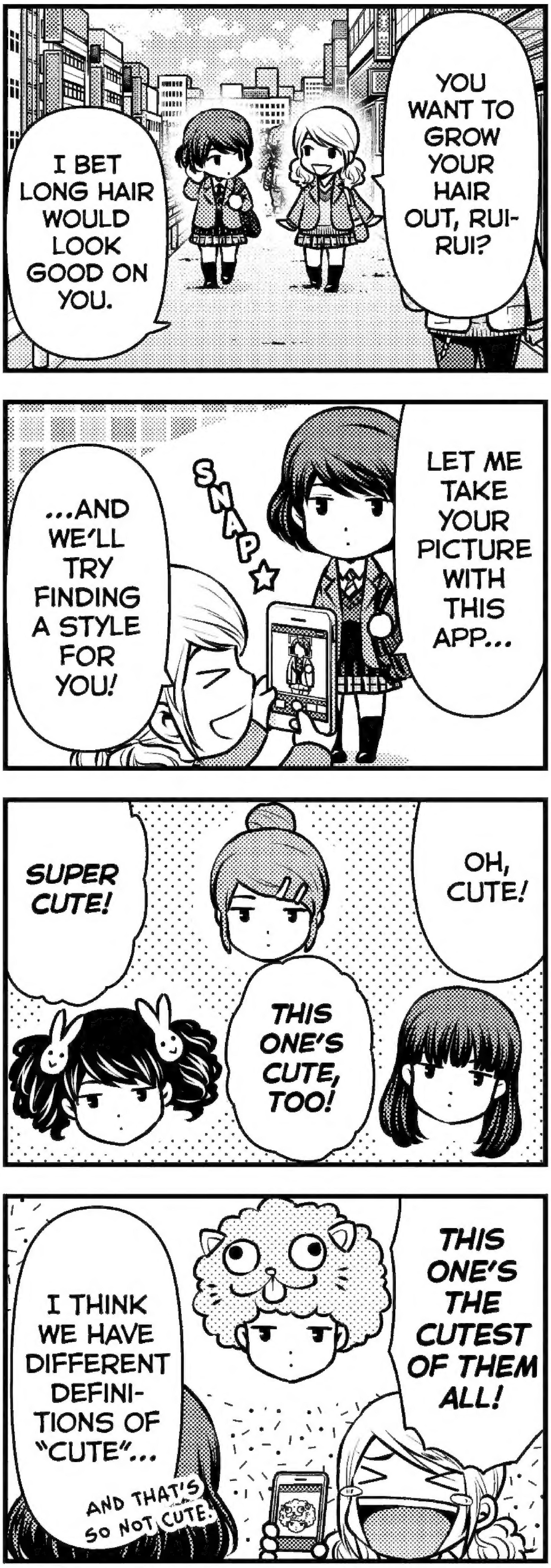
DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER

CLOSET

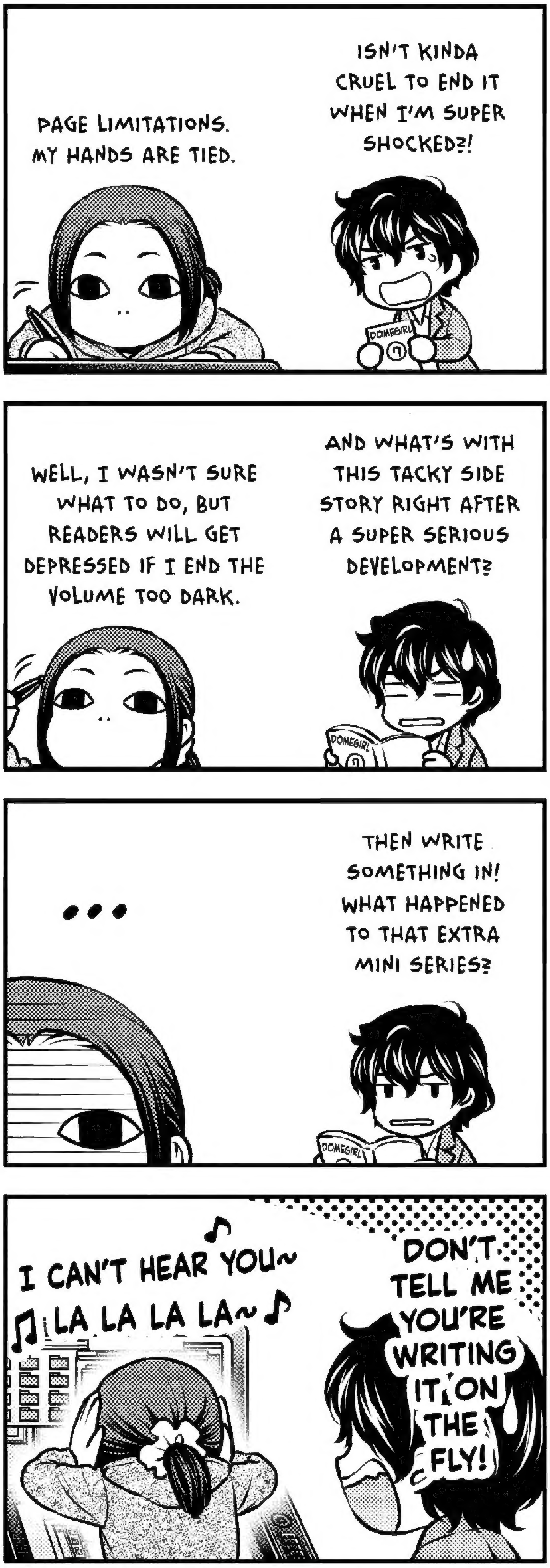

LET ME GIVE YOU A WARNING.
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP LOVING HINA-NEE, DON'T LOOK IN HER CLOSET.
WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
IS SHE HIDING STUFF SHE GOT FROM HER EX OR SOMETHING?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S FULL OF PROOF OF CHEATING ON ME WITH OTHER GUYS!
CREAK
キィ
IT'S A BUNCH OF T-SHIRTS FROM VARIOUS PLACES!
AND THEY'RE ALL LAME!
なまら。
北海道
OKINAWA
から揚


THE COVER HAS A PRETTY SNOWY FEEL TO IT, BUT DID YOU ACTUALLY GO ANYWHERE LIKE THAT?
NO, WE DIDN'T.
THEN WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL, UHH, A SIMULATED IMAGE? IT'S JUST CG.

CUTE


YOU WANT TO GROW YOUR HAIR OUT, RUI-RUI?
I BET LONG HAIR WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
LET ME TAKE YOUR PICTURE WITH THIS APP...
SNAP☆
...AND WE'LL TRY FINDING A STYLE FOR YOU!
OH, CUTE!
THIS ONE'S CUTE, TOO!
SUPER CUTE!
THIS ONE'S THE CUTEST OF THEM ALL!
I THINK WE HAVE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF "CUTE"...
AND THAT'S SO NOT CUTE.

DEVELOPMENT


ISN'T KINDA CRUEL TO END IT WHEN I'M SUPER SHOCKED?!
PAGE LIMITATIONS. MY HANDS ARE TIED.
DOMEGIRL 7
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS TACKY SIDE STORY RIGHT AFTER A SUPER SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT?
WELL, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO, BUT READERS WILL GET DEPRESSED IF I END THE VOLUME TOO DARK.
DOMEGIRL 7
THEN WRITE SOMETHING IN! WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT EXTRA MINI SERIES?
...
DOMEGIRL
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WRITING IT ON THE FLY!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU~ ♪ LA LA LA LA~ ♪

Due to page limitations, Sweet Home Magic didn't make it into this volume.

I really do have a plan. Honestly...

SEE YOU IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

Domestic Girlfriend 7

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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